TRACK RECORD

THE WESTERN BIGFOOT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

#149 MAY SUMMARY 2005

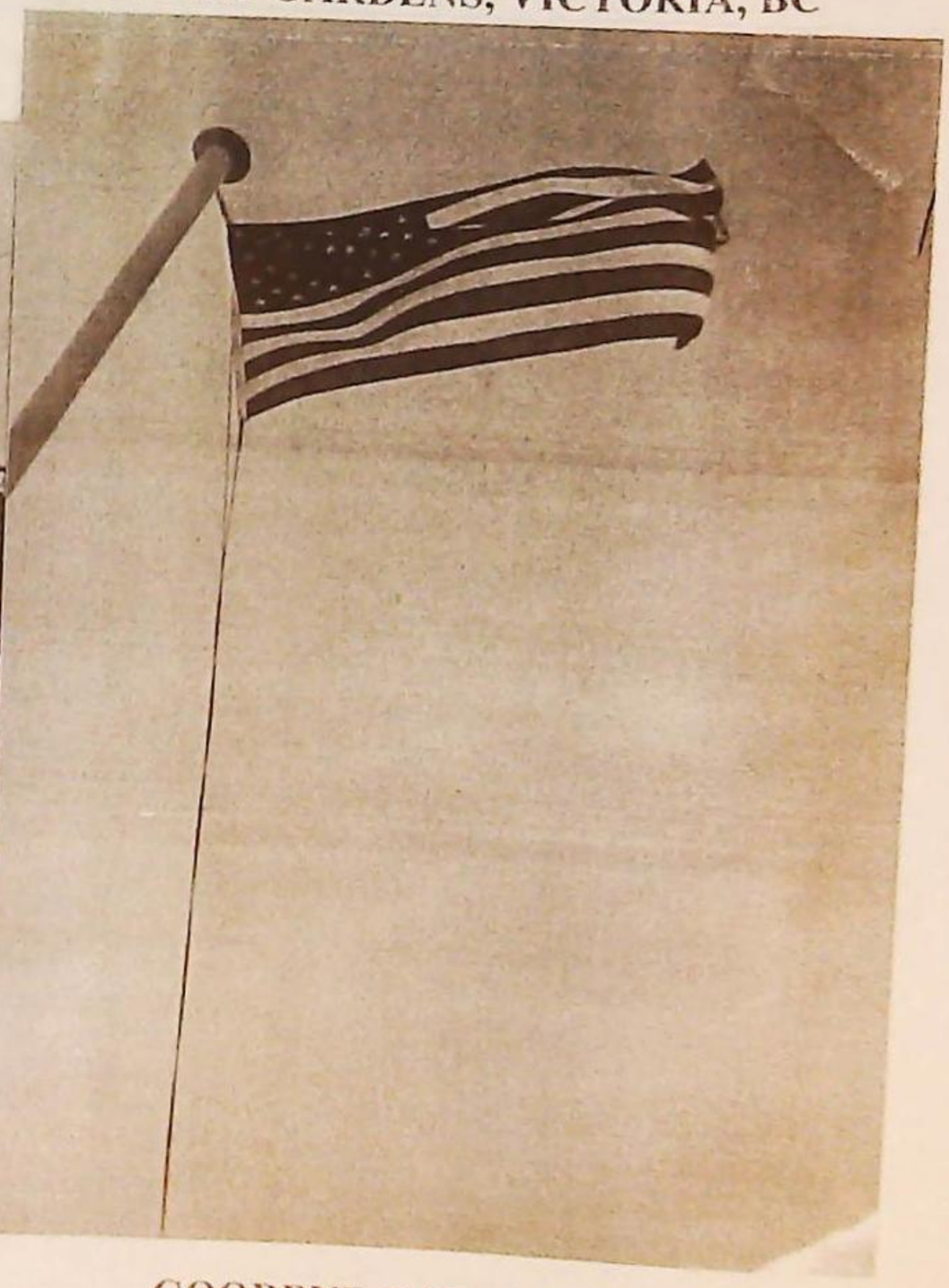
Rob Butler
1-27-97 © #13

EDITOR RAY CROWE

TOTEM POLES HWY 101, S. OF SQUIM

BUCHART GARDENS, VICTORIA, BC

NEXT TO BC PROVINCIAL
MUSEUM, VICTORIA



GOODBYE CANADA, FLAG
ON THE FERRY TO USA

The Track Record

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MAKE CHECKS TO RAY CROWE PLEASE I DON'T HAVE A BANK ACCOUNT TO WBS, IBS, TRACK RECORD, ETC...MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO RAY CROWE...PLEASE!!

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*** REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.**

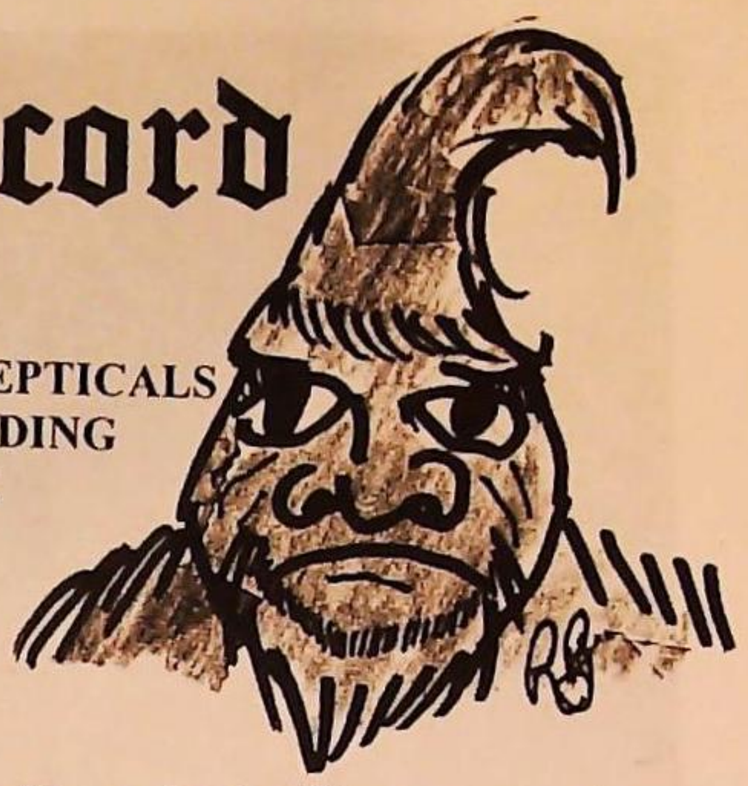
MEETING

Monthly meetings will be at the Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM, All invited. Free to the public (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.). There will be a mini-museum and items will be for sale by owner Patti Dietz.

*** Patti Reinhold reminded us that the outdoor conference, Pow Wow-Potlatch, scheduled for the weekend of July 9-10, will be at Longbow Forest Camp again this year. Do contact Patti for reservations please, there are only 49 sleeping areas in open-face alpine huts. Call 541-367-2359. We plan to invite speakers. Bring your sleeping bags and food for the Potlatch.**

Longbow is 20 miles east of Sweet Home, off of Hwy 20. Turn right at milepost 46 (look for a cardboard sign), then go 2 miles on the Gordon Meadow road to the campsite. There are six alpine huts with upper and lower bunks. These are open in front facing a firepit and the South Santiam River.

No charge, but you must make a reservation for the Alpine hut sleeping areas. Patti and Bob have reserved the entire camp for us, and are providing a mountain of firewood for bonfires, and salmon for dinner…but be prepared to feed yourself and even share. Some tent space is available, parking is limited, talk to Patti. There is a covered eating area with picnic tables, fireplace, bear proof storage vault.



MEETINGS

Many of the IBS members gathered at Bellingham for Jason Valenti's Sasquatch Conference…it was a terrific success. Laced with excellent speakers, items for sale, snacks on Friday, exhibits, and a super attendance, this is one of the better conferences I've attended...besides, was able to meet several old friends I've not seen in a long time. Took a few photos which I'll include. I also took the opportunity to tour Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., in search of totem poles to photograph, also included. Thanks Jason for a swell conference.

Meanwhile, back in Portland at the Home Plate, there was a regular meeting, hosted by Todd Limburg, with guests from as far away as Seattle (they were told they went the wrong way). Todd had a CD of possible Bigfoot noises he recorded in Skamania County, WA, near Eagles Cliff.

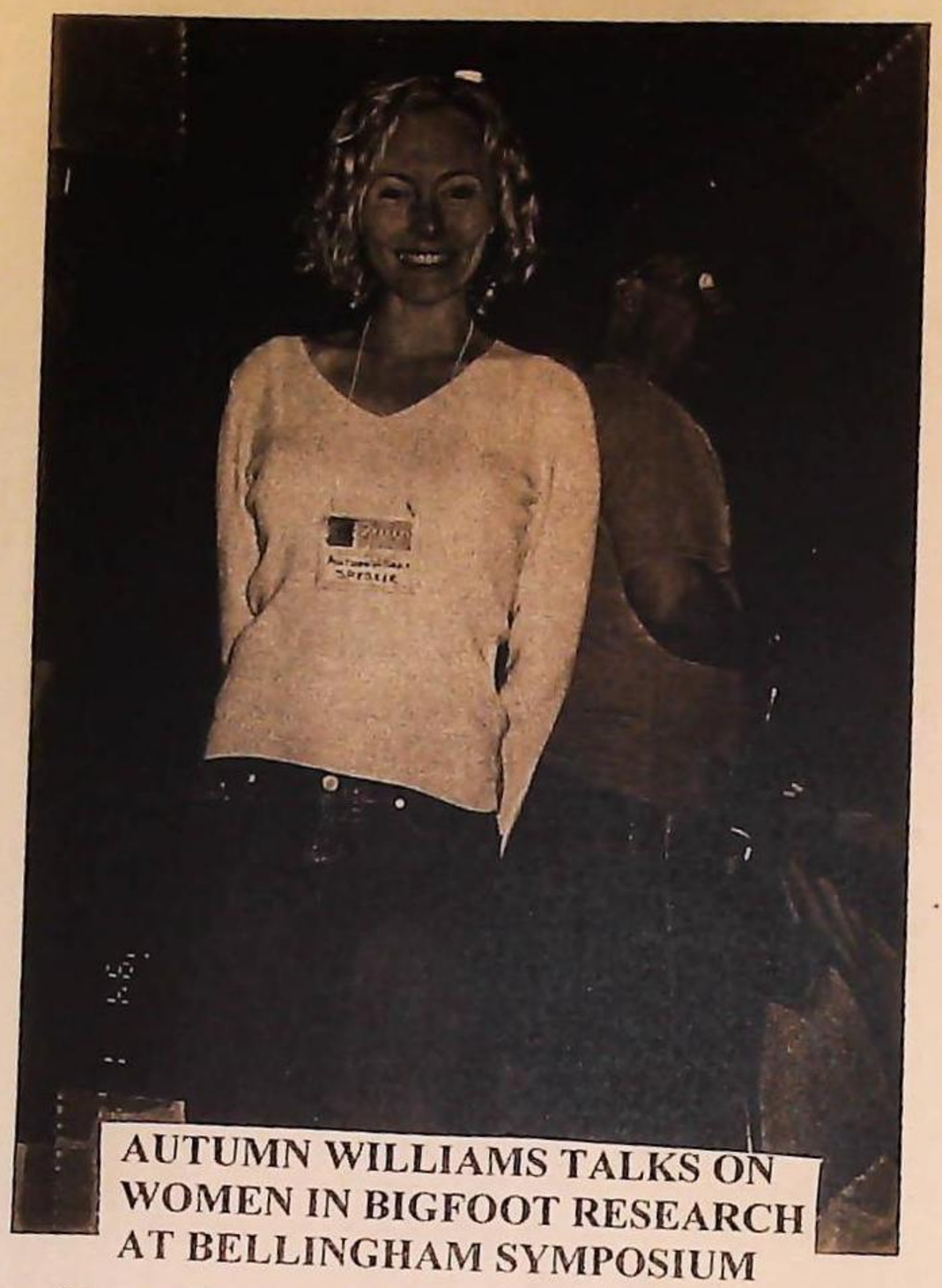
BIGFOOT ACTIVITY REPORTS

*** Bigfoot Researchers Claim Another Sighting Of Elusive Creature**

Bigfoot researchers claim they have found more evidence of the elusive creature, this time in the mountains of California.

The Great American Bigfoot Research Organization contacted NewsWatch50 after our story about a Canadian man who claimed to have sighted the creature, in order to tell the public about an expedition they are conducting outside Burney, California in an area called Clover Mountain.

1. **On April 2, Mr. Lee Hickman, a professional tracker and guide in Burney, and his brother Jimmy were looking for tracks at an elevation of about 5,300 feet**



AUTUMN WILLIAMS TALKS ON WOMEN IN BIGFOOT RESEARCH AT BELLINGHAM SYMPOSIUM

on Clover Mountain. He saw about a dozen tracks coming off of Clover Mountain, crossing Burney Creek and then Dry Burney Creek. They followed the tracks toward an area called The Gardens, heading toward McGee Mountain. They lost the tracks at the tree line of McGee Mountain. The Hickman brothers are grandsons of famous Bigfoot researcher Ivan Marx.

Three days later, on April 5, they returned to the area where they saw some of the tracks so they could take plaster casts of them (picture of the casting shown above). With them on the expedition on April 5th were Tom Biscardi, founder of the Great American Bigfoot Research Organization; Robert Shorey, Vice-President of Great American Bigfoot Research Organization; and Peggy Marx, wife of the late Ivan Marx.

The group also claim to have sighted the creature during the making of the casts. While the casts were being made, Tom Biscardi heard a rustling in the bushes. When he looked, he says he could see a creature crouching, looking at the people who were making the casts of the print. When Biscardi pursued the creature, the creature ran away. The party followed the fresh tracks of the creature, but lost them as the creature went over rocky terrain.

Facts about the castings of the footprints:
Length: 15 inches
Width (at the base(heel) of the print): 4.5 inches
Width (at the widest part of the foot, which would be at the top of the foot): 6 inches
The prints that indicated the length of the stride of the creature showed a stride of 64 inches long.
Photos of the casts and photos of the actual footprints from which the April 5th casts were taken will be available on the official website of the Great American Bigfoot Research Organization, http://www.greatamericanbigfoot.com/.
From Newswatch 50, WWTI ABC

* "Reese Ella Howard" <hotdog@intertex.net>
Tue, 7 Jun 2005 10:56:39 -0500

In another e-mail that followed, this lady told me that she is very familiar with coyotes and this didn't sound like any coyote she ever heard. I told her I would submit her report to knowledgeable researchers (which I am not) to see if it might possibly sound like a Bigfoot to any of you real researchers who know what a Bigfoot sounds like! Thank you so much for reading it.

Hello Ella.....

"Well, last night we had one heck of a storm (just recently moved to northern Illinois), lots of wicked lightning and thunder boomers. I was laying in bed watching the storm when I heard this screech. At first I thought Yeti, LOL. Then I thought, well maybe an owl. But it sounded to be at least a half mile away, echoing through the houses. The thing that scared me about this noise was that it sounded very guttural, throaty, and quite distressed. It made it's screech twice, each after a large blast of lightning.

It started low and ended high pitched (if that makes sense). Like it was asking a question. This sounded mammalian, nothing like any bird I've heard.
I live in a town with about 25,000 people (fairly small) and we've seen deer run down our street in the past. Do deer scream like that? Would any of you know what type of animal would make such a noise?
Thank you. Sunny"

FIELD REPORTS

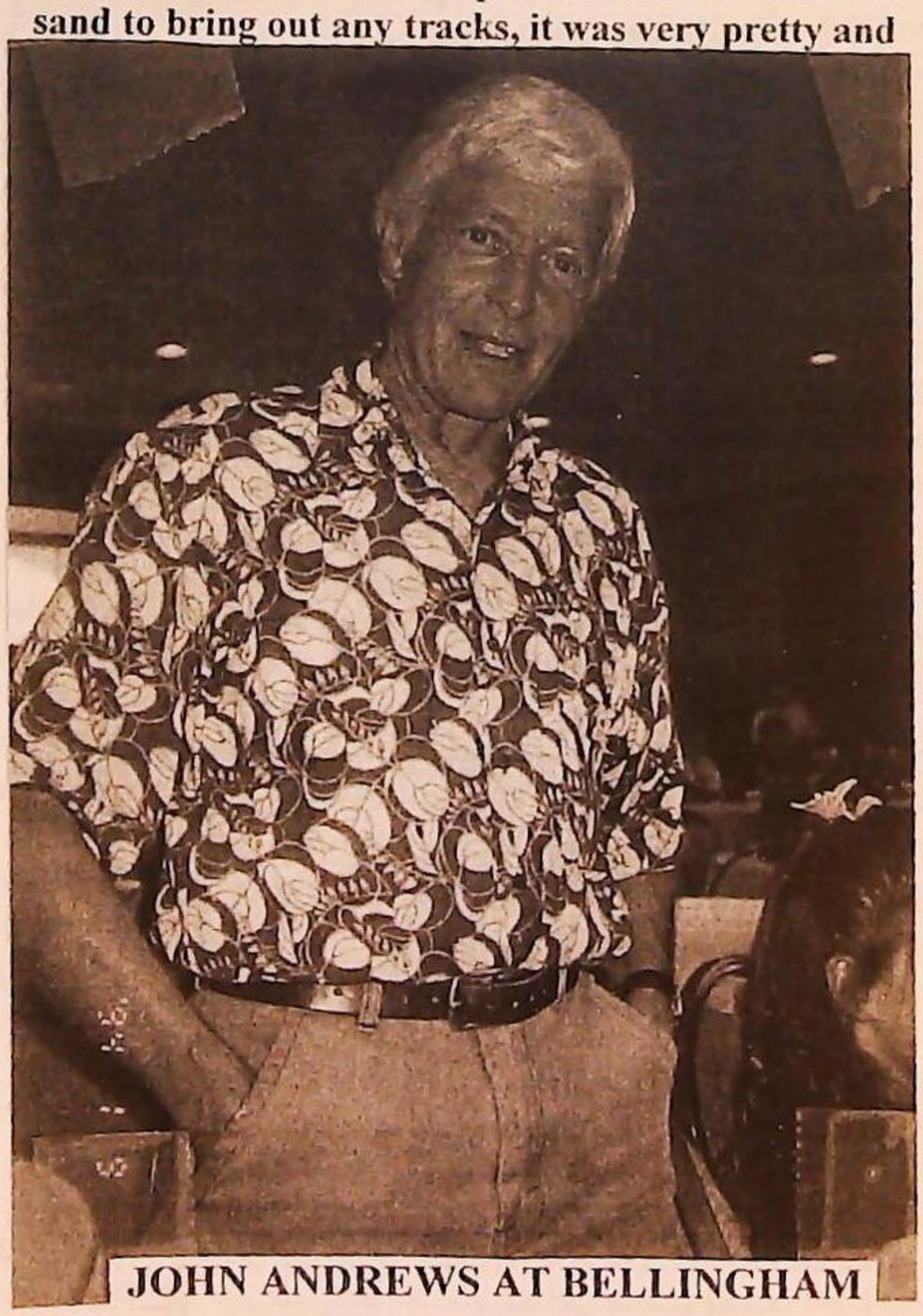
* Dr. Christopher Keefauver May 2, '05
keefauver2002@yahoo.com
"Doc"Keefauver expedition-report-pictures

The "Doc" Keefauver expedition into the mud springs area near Hayfork Ca. came off without a hitch on May 1st. The ,members of the Team included "Doc" Keefauver
(myself), Bob and Keri Stafford and Ryan martin.
The expedition was sponsored by CMD. Co., which supplied survival hiking staffs to all members of the team, survival staffs are specialized hiking staffs which contain everything needed to spend an extended period of time in the wilderness in the event of an emergency, these are the best hiking staffs in the world and truly an essential for wilderness travel.

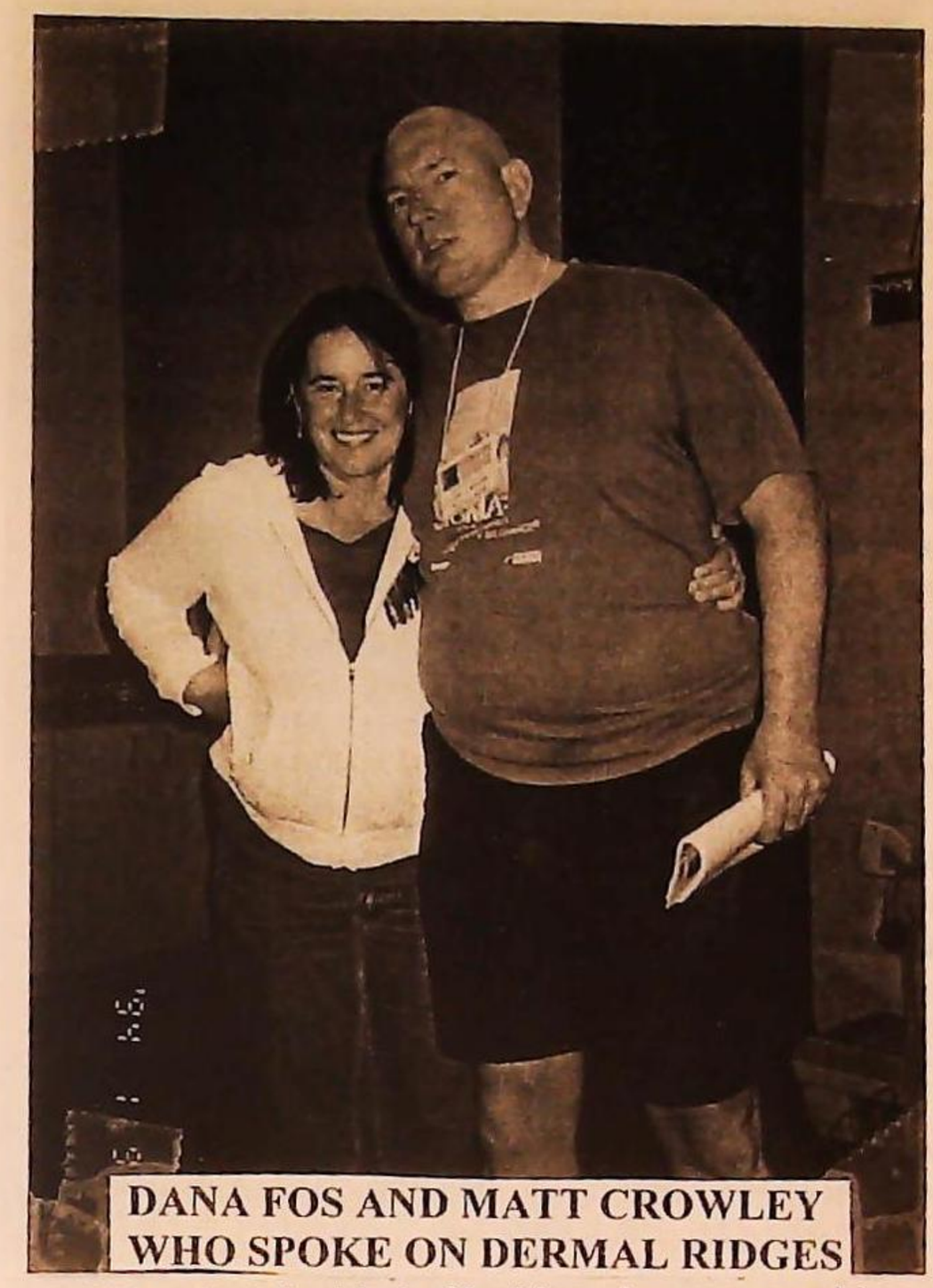
The weather was overcast it had just rained the day before so that tracking was good. The team would search creek beds and road sides for any sign of the

eature. We searched along road 353 (rattle snake oad) the road was dirt and still muddy so that any tracks would show very well if we cut any sign ,we also searched up a small creek in the area where we split up and seemed to rejoin about halfway up a mountain, came down a logging road together and back to the main road, Keri, who has an infectious adventurous sprit, set the date for the expedition and was invaluable at putting this together, she could not have chosen a better day, she led the way most of the time. Bob and Ryan turned out to be good trackers Bob found what seemed to be a suspicious "Bigfoot like track" but it was not clear enough to discern, Ryan found big bear tracks along the road coming back to our vehicles, I was unimpressed by their skills, at this time a woman named Mary who lives in the area stopped and chatted she told me of a Bigfoot experience with her dogs of late, she had heard an unworldly scream and her dogs would not come out from behind a log she said they had passed out or something to that effect,

I have seen Mary's dogs and they are large and woods wise, this sounded like a typical dog- Bigfoot experience, so drove up the road and had lunch in the area she spoke of, nothing was found in the mud springs area at this time, so we shifted our hunt some miles away toward Indian valley, we took road 7 to road 31N32 it was clear that we were the only persons that had been on this road of late,there we saw a promising secluded creek to try out and made our way up it, the banks were perfect with wet mud and sand to bring out any tracks, it was very pretty and



JOHN ANDREWS AT BELLINGHAM



DANA FOS AND MATT CROWLEY
WHO SPOKE ON DERMAL RIDGES

pristine, just the kind of looking place you would expect to see a Bigfoot in, once again Keri led the way along the creek, we traveled slowly and scrutinized every feature looking to "cut sign" but alas we were to have no luck on this outing, we eventually came to a secluded pot growers camp that had been abandoned some years before, and there we turned around and went home all the better for having went out and did it, as a member of the Bigfoot society I could not have chosen a better team, sprits were good the whole trip and nobody was a quitter and truly they are "monster hunters" one and all!, and although we came up blank this time there is always another time, we went out and actually did it!, and that is a good feeling, its like Ryan said, that's why they call it a mystery!, we had made an enjoyable day of it, as you well know in this area one place is as good as another when it comes to searching for Bigfoot, and we plan another search in our local area in the near future. attached are some pictures, I wish to thank Ray Crowe for presenting my call for volunteers in the Western society bigfoot news letter and hope that you run our story with pictures in your future news letter.
Sincerely; Dr. C. Keefauver Ph.D.

MISCELANEOUS

* Credit: "Lee Trippett" <leet@bossig.com> May 4, '05 Subjec BF on Coast to Coast

Kathleen on Coast to Coast AM May 3, 2005

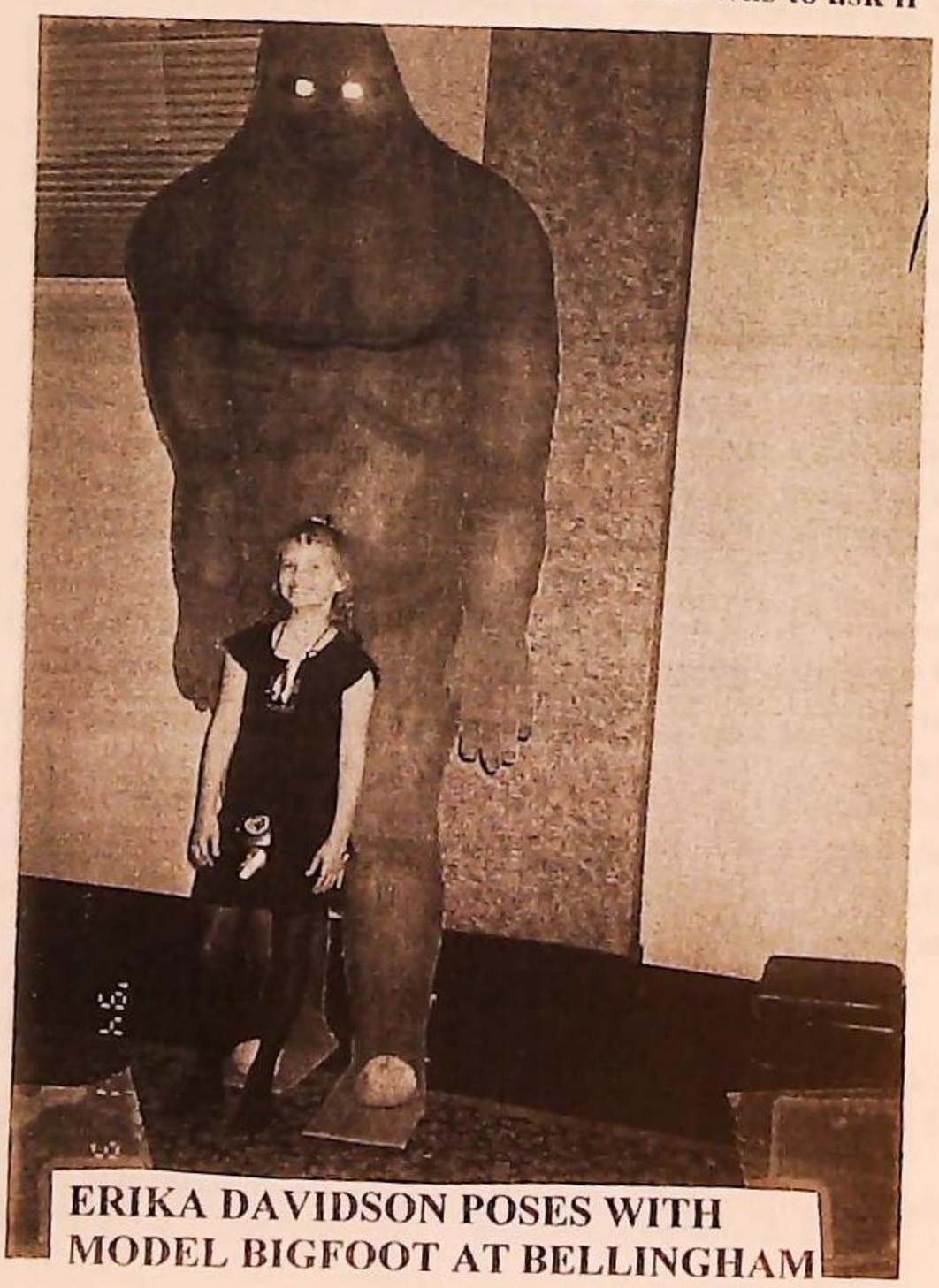
She identifies self as living in southwest Oregon and

as a professional animal communicator. (Her bulletin describes her talents as being very effective over a period of many years. She is in her late '50's.) She announced that she was requested by one of the long time BF researchers (i.e.,Lee T.) to make telepathic communication with BF. She has had several very interesting sessions with BF. She has taken meticulous notes on what BF has had to say. One of the questions asked was, "Do you want to communicate with humans?

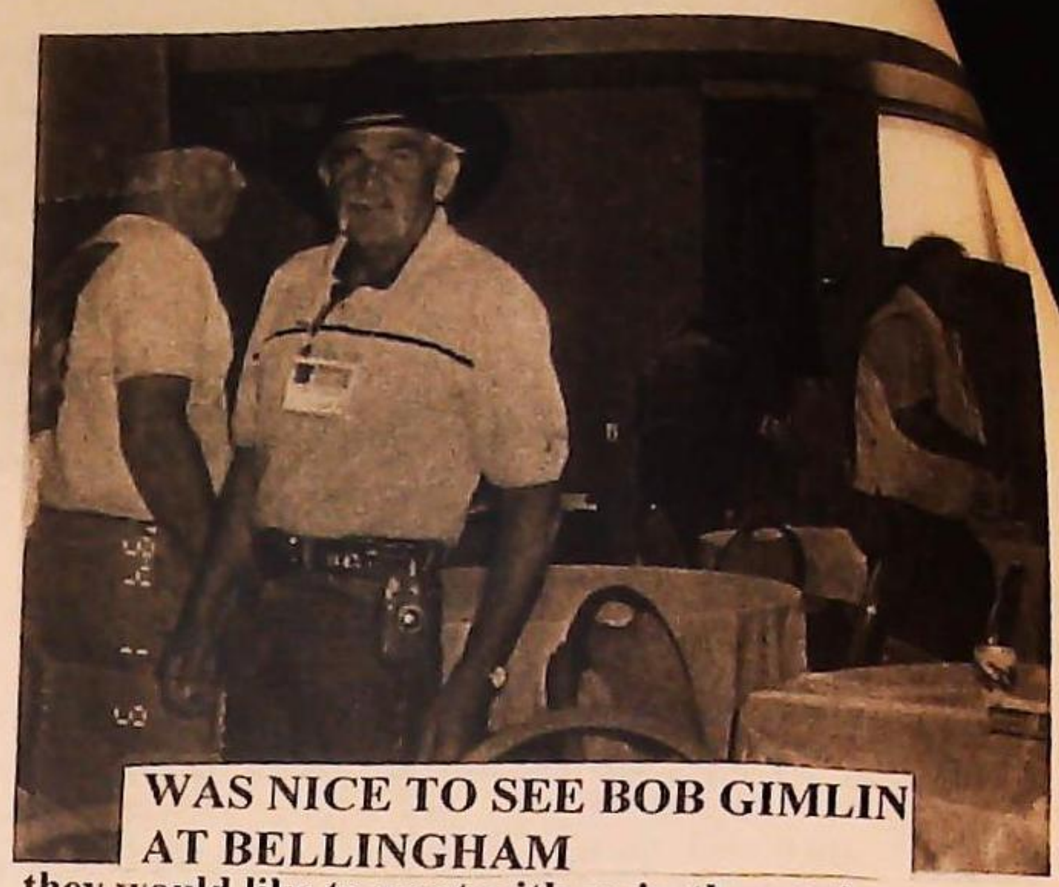
BF said we have been willing and waiting . . . we have been waiting for you to be ready ... some of what I have to say will not be understood at this moment but the time is quickly arriving. We will only share a small bit at this time until the humans are ready. We came to hold the larger space. Most of the humans do not know that this space is most important for us to continue in this place. The information we will share is ancient but many will not honor that. We have been patient. I watch you all the time. Everything is thinning. The time is coming for us all to be together. We are like the ancient form of who you are. If we are extinguished then you too will be gone. Until many recognize this, we will remain in the shadows mostly.

Loren Coleman has heard of similar thoughts back in the 1970's by Archie Buckley. He asks, "Has this woman seen this creature, photographed it, or get it to come closer?" She answers, "No I have not, Loren."

One of the questions in the last session was to ask if



ERIKA DAVIDSON POSES WITH MODEL BIGFOOT AT BELLINGHAM



WAS NICE TO SEE BOB GIMLIN AT BELLINGHAM

they would like to meet with us in the earth dimension. Are you willing to arrange such a meeting? If so, under what specific conditions? And BF said, "That will happen sooner than you know if you stay on your path. We also want to meet with you, but there can be no mistakes or slipups. We will make sure of that before we arrange any meeting. We are always looking at your heart. We are here to guide the humans, not to serve their curiosity. There is a much more serious matter than curiosity. Until you know that we will limit our physical contact.

Guest Tom Biscardi, said it is amazing. Back in the early 1970's he met with a Nick Narcarino(sp?). He was famous for sending out telepathic waves to communicate with the creatures.

He asked if she was reading from her notes and she replied yes. He asks how long ago and she replies April 12 of this year from within her home.

She tells him she is very familiar with the caves near Mt. Lassen that Tom has been recently speaking about because she and her family spent much time in the area years ago. She heard BF calls and knew they were there when family would travel to caves. She felt very peaceful about it. It was very interesting but has never had a one on one meeting with BF.

Tom brings up the issue of legislation to protect BF and then says, "Kathleen, it is amazing that there are still people around that have the talents you posses."

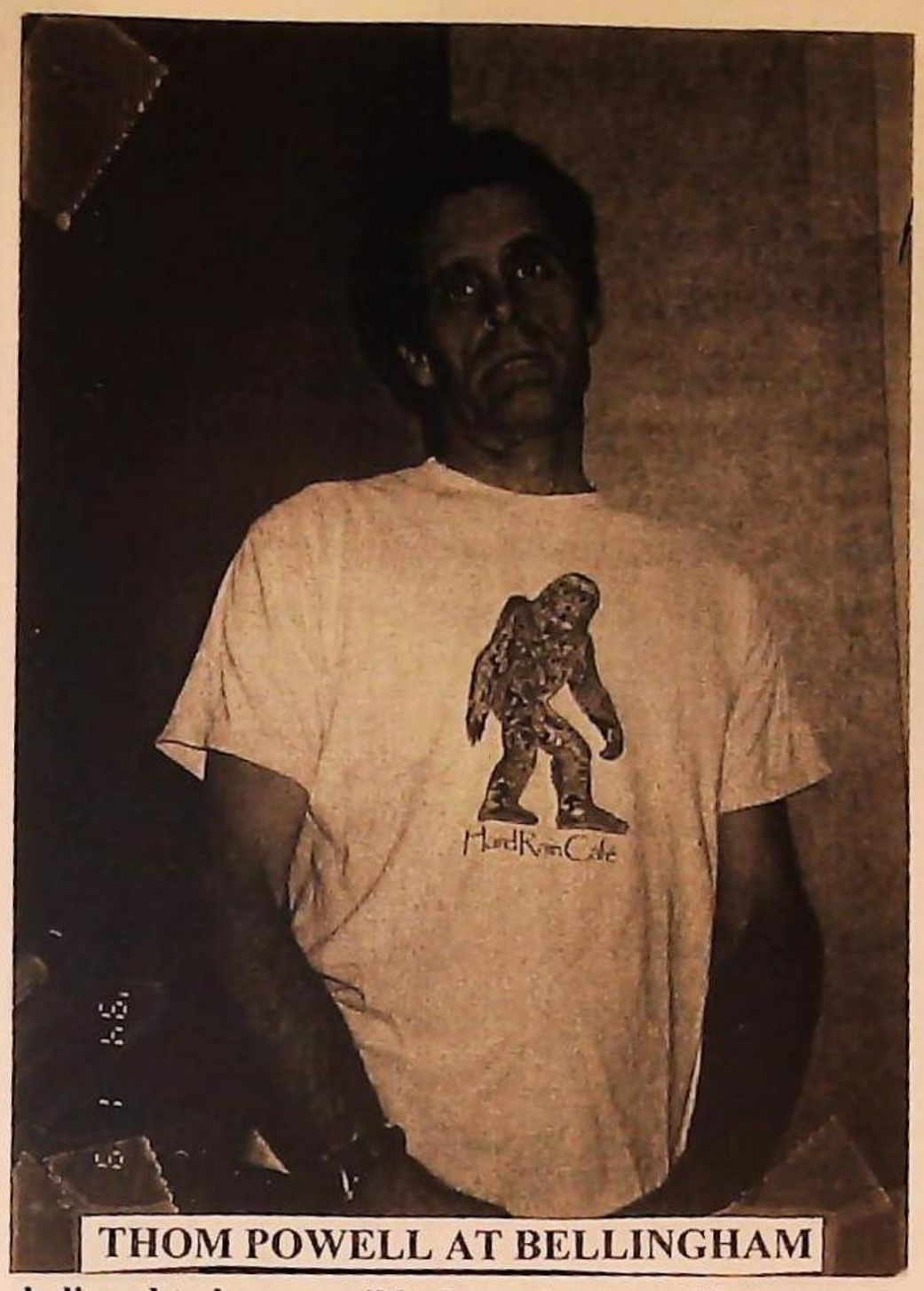
Next caller line was opened by George Noory.

* Greetings friends and Colleagues.

Just wanted to write very quickly for those interested, a very brief review of the 17th Annual Bigfoot Conference/Expo held May 7th, 2005 at Salt Fork State Park in Ohio.

The event was being sponsored by Don Keating of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Investigation Center and the members of the Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group. The event began shorty after 4 pm with opening remarks by Don Keating. Then Don had two witness who sighted a Bigfoot in Salt Fork Park in August 2004 near a picnic area. It was refreshing to have this husband and wife come up and tell their story. Dr.

WOOD STATUE AT BELLINGHAM



THOM POWELL AT BELLINGHAM

Paul Johnson of Beaver Falls spoke on Statistical Data of Bigfoot sightings from 1977 to 1997 and his theory using Quantum Physics as an explanation for some of the more unusual Bigfoot sightings. Paul did an excellent job. The next speaker was Ron Schaffner of Cincinatti Ohio. Ron spoke on cases he investigated through out Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana dating back to the 1970s and it was accompanied by a power point presentation as well. After a dinner Break, Joedy Cook from Southeastern Ohio spoke on two cases he investigated involving the discover of possible Bigfoot hand and the cast that was taken and several footprints that were discovered after a sighting in South central Ohio. The final speaker was yours truly. I spoke on some of the investigations the PBS/PRO groups had investigated in the 2004-2005 calendar years and it was also accompanied by a powerpoint presentation. Following my presentation a panel discussion was held which included a panel of the speakers minus Paul Johnson, and a UFO investigator out of the Alliance Ohio area. The conference had well over 250 people in attendance, which included enthusiasts, researchers and the curious seekers. All in all it was a fantastic time and it was great to hear the speakers and see old friends and make new ones.

Congrats to Don Keating and the Tri State Bigfoot Study group on a job well done.

Now onto the possible footprint discovery.

On Saturday May 7, 2005 I was approached by Ron Schaffner who told me two men from Kentucky who were up for the conference discovered what they believed to be a possible footprint just off of a hiking trail. I soon met up with the two men and they took myself, Brian and Terrie Seech and a film crew who was there to film the conference and speakers for an up coming documentary they are working on. At any rate. The footprint was discovered by two men and a boy while hiking in a wooded area not far from one of the camp grounds in the Salt Fork State Park. They took me and showed me the track. The track was an older print, and it measured 15 inches from toe to heal and 7 1/2 inches across the ball. Although the track did not yield very much detail, it does look like the shape of a large foot. My conclusion and my opinion only is that it is too difficult to tell exactly what made the track, be it human, other known animal or in fact a Bigfoot. However I am submitting the photos for you. Incidentally, the park has had numerous sightings, with the latest being the couple that spoke at the conference who had their sighting in August 2004. The gift shop, Marina and the Ranger Station sell Bigfoot T-shirts. One says I saw Bigfoot at Salt Fork State Park, the other says Got Bigfoot? on the front and on the back it says we do, Salt Fork State Park. It was neat to see these items for sale. None the less. I submit these photos for your viewing and you can be your own judge. I'd be interested in hearing your feedback on them and what you think.

Thanks and Hope to see many of you or hear from many of you soon. Regards Eric Altman

Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society
26 Cardinal Drive, Jeannette PA 15644
www.pabigfootsociety.com

SALT FORK SP FOOTPRINT

BOB STAFFORD, RAYN MARTIN, AND KERI STAFFORD ON EXPEDITION

* Desperately seeking one sasquatch in Sedro-Woolley By Skagit Valley Herald staff

Sedro-Woolley's beloved sasquatch was stolen from the front of the town's museum, and police are asking residents for tips.

The 8-foot-tall wooden sculpture went missing sometime Friday night or Saturday morning, Police Chief Doug Wood said.

Although the wooden beast was bolted to the sidewalk, thieves were able to tear it away from its perch in front of the Sedro-Woolley History Museum near the corner of Murdock and Woodward streets, Wood said.

"We'd like any information if anyone sees our sasquatch," Wood said. "It's kind of hard to miss."

Wood estimated the sculpture's value at $2,000. He asked that anyone with information about the sasquatch's whereabouts contact the Sedro-Woolley Police Department at 360-855-0111.

* Hello Ray: This from Joe Beelart. I'm sending something you might want to note in the "Track Record" about "Ole' Butt Head."

April 29, 2005, Dar (Darskii) sent me this note from Walla Walla:

"This morning I found my wonderful Phantom dead in his barn. We think he just had a heart attack in the night. He was getting up there in goat years.

We buried him with a can of beer, his favorite."

Ray, you and many International Bigfoot Society members might remember Phantom as the large billy goat who attended several of the Carson gatherings. While Phantom didn't have horns naturally, he honestly earned his reputation as "Ole' Butt Head," especially when he thought he wasn't getting his ration of pale ale.

Phantom was a pack goat, well suited for wandering the Blue Mountains with Dar and associates. For every Bigfoot enthusiast who walks the mountains and has a place to keep one or more pack goats, they are the animal to have.

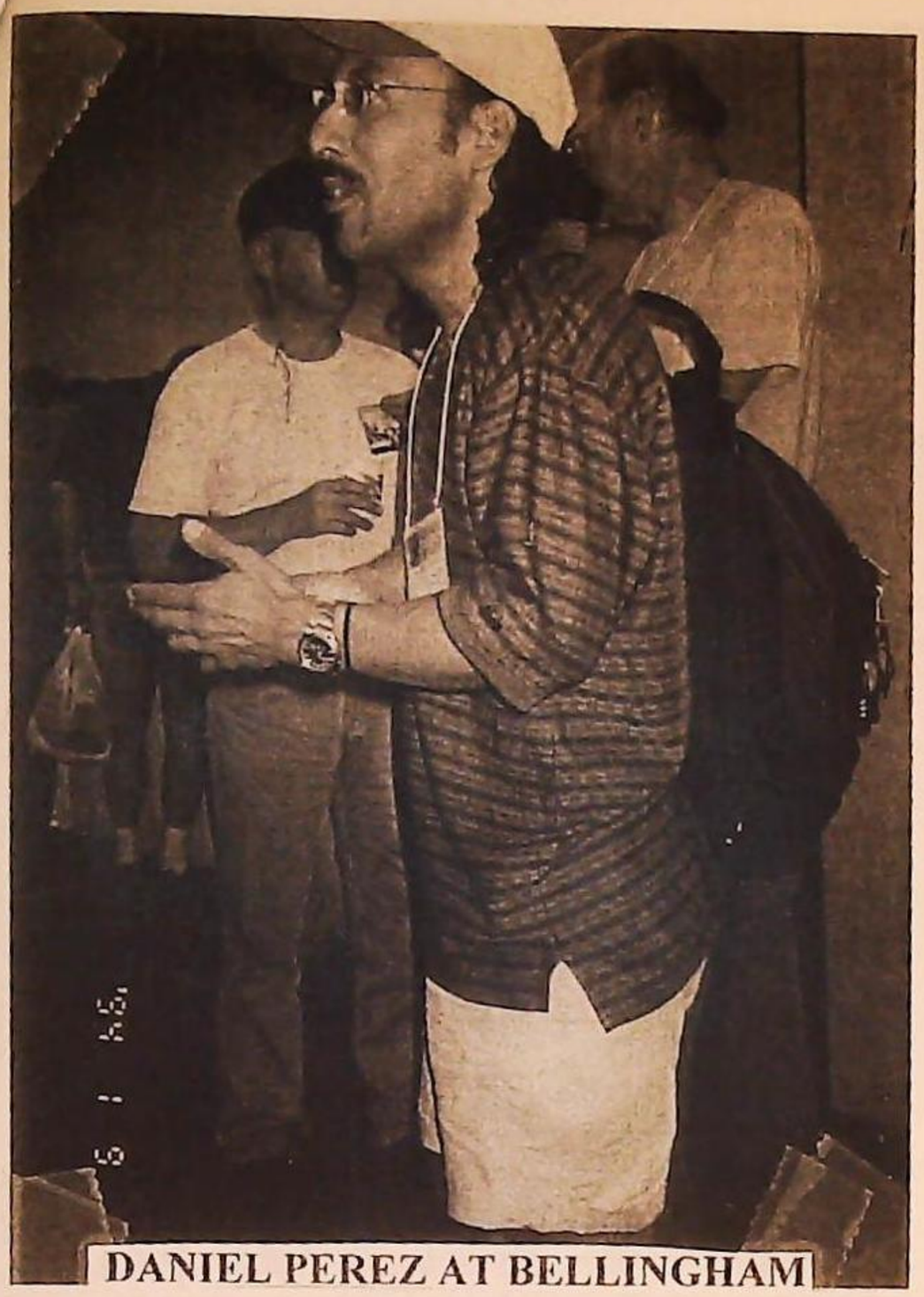
On April 30th, Dar continued in a post to me:

"I brought him (Phantom to Carson) a couple of times, that last time, when he was the "best goat" at the Bigfoot mock wedding was the best!

And yes, he sure liked that pale ale! He also had a thing for Doritos and bagels. He had a stomach full of bagels when he passed on.

OH yes, he was a total BUTT when we were trying to get him in the little truck (at Carson), he DID NOT want to go home!

About a month ago John Mionczynski was here (from Wyoming) and Mark (Dar's husband) and John saddled up Phantom and put two kitchen sinks on the pack saddle. I got a picture of them, they were wearing these ear flap hats, Stormy Kromers, and it was cold, I was laughing so hard I could hardly aim the camera.



DANIEL PEREZ AT BELLINGHAM

We were out drinking beer at the fire pit. John was cold so he would put his beer in the fire and warm it up. Phantom took a liking to that warm stuff too! Sure am going to miss that boy! He was one in a million!"

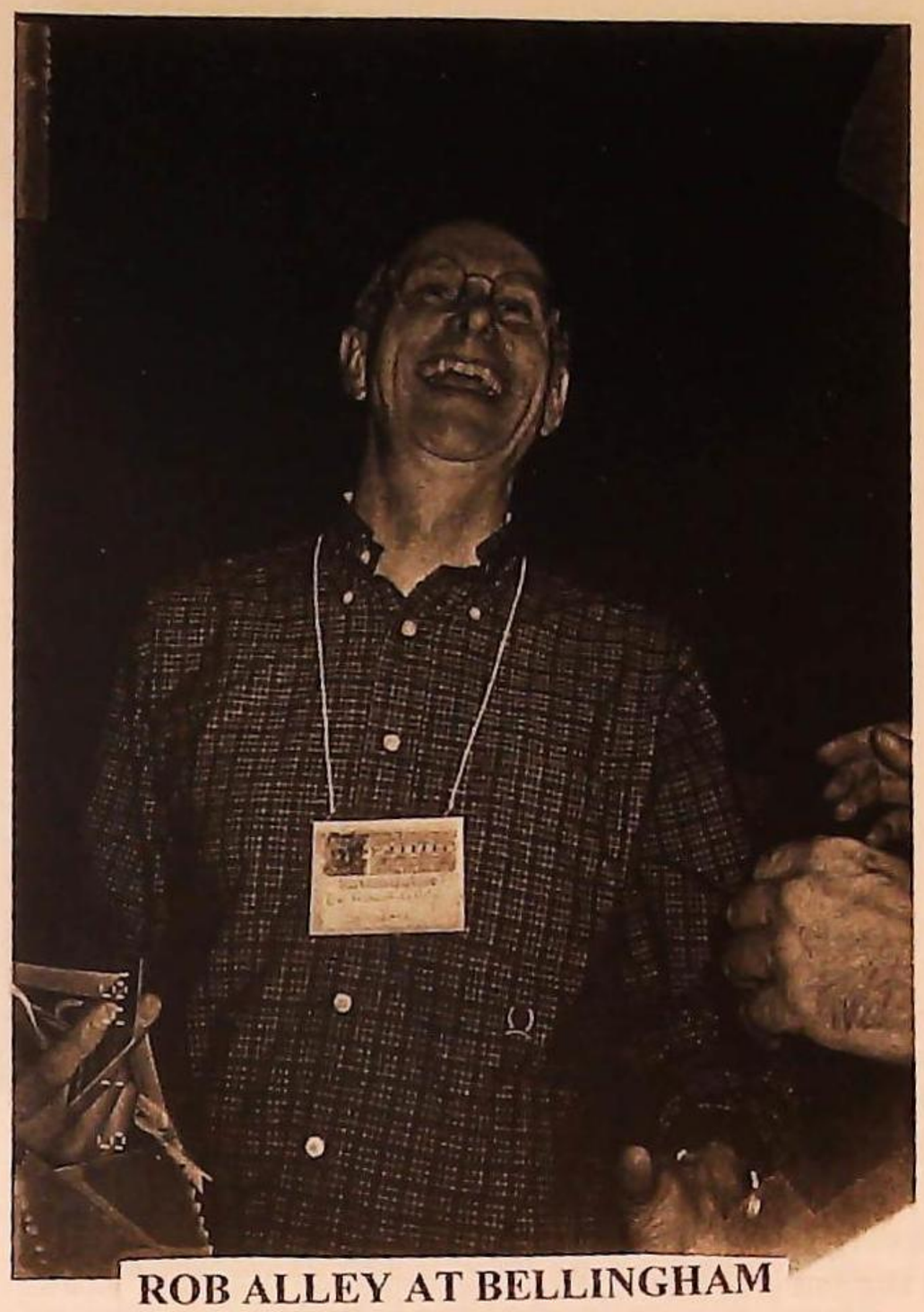
The April 30th post was signed: "a very sad Darskii."

From Joe: later in the evening at Carson, when the music was going, some of us used to sit in the shadow of Dar's goat trailer and watch the going's on. Phantom liked the company and behaved himself very well. He also liked to finish off everyone's pale ale. After the gathering where we discovered he liked pale ale, that's all we brought. And talk about bad breath in goats -- wow ...

* THE FOLLOWING CAN BE USED AS A "LETTER TO THE EDITOR" FOR THE TR IF YOU WISH.

Thanks your letter Ray. Don't know what to make of the Manitoba incident; would love to see some professionally enhanced copies of that footage. Could be real?

Heading NY Friday for a week and then back here. Hope to be up your way in the summer. My Dodge 350 camper presently on board ship on the way to Shanghai and thence about June 12th to Long Beach here. So I'll have some decent transportation once again for some private Bigfooting, with some new ideas and approaches.
See you in the summer. Stay out of trouble!.
Best wishes, as always >>> Peter B.



ROB ALLEY AT BELLINGHAM

* Craig Woolheater ecwool@swbell.net <TexasBigfootConf@yahoogroups.com>

Texas Bigfoot Conference: Desperately Seeking Sasquatch 22 May 2005

Desperately Seeking Sasquatch, MARTA MURVOSH, Skagit Valley (WA) Herald

For aficionados, quest to find Bigfoot borders on an addiction

Howling like a foghorn, Jason Valenti sent out a call into the night to any Sasquatch that might be passing by. The 34-year-old Valenti's cry echoed down a remote mountainside in eastern Skagit County.

As the sound faded, the rush of a stream in the distance broke the dark night's quiet.

Valenti's friend and fellow Bigfoot aficionado, John Andrews, commented on the overcast sky and remoteness of the location at the end of a rough logging road.

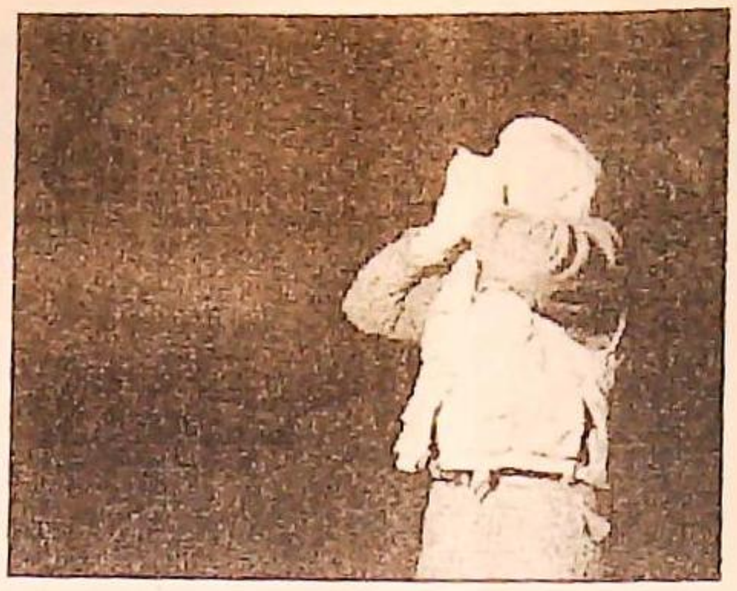
"It's a beautiful night," said Andrews, a 62-year-old Camano Island resident who has been searching for Sasquatch for 40 years. "It's a perfect Sasquatch night."

For many, the large, ape-like Sasquatch is a creature of legend. Cryptozoologists, those who study hidden creatures, would like to prove Sasquatch is a real creature.

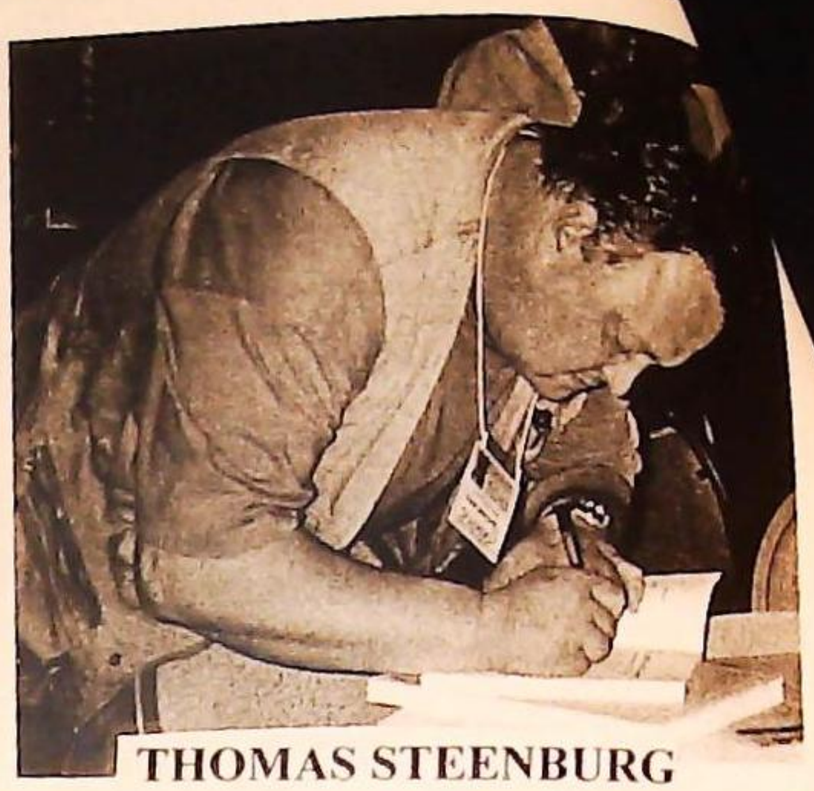
For Andrews, Valenti and other aficionados, finding proof of the reportedly shy creature is a calling, one that borders on addiction.

"It's like a drug," Valenti said. Something out there Andrews and Valenti say there is something out

John Andrews (left) and Jason Valenti show the equipment they use in their search for Sasquatch.



John Andrews of Camano Island calls out imitating what he believes to be the sounds Sasquatch makes. Seeking Sasquatch is a pastime of some Skagit County residents and others living in the Northwest



THOMAS STEENBURG

there, and they want to know what it is.They network online and attend conferences, sharing tips and Sasquatch sightings.

And at least once a month, Valenti and Andrews head to the hills of eastern Skagit and Whatcom counties in search of "the 'squatch."

They say magic hour to find sign or sound of Bigfoot falls between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

The two men load Andrews' Subaru with equipment including a thermos of hot chocolate, a camcorder, an aluminum baseball bat and a tape recorder. The bat is to strike rocks and trees in hopes that Bigfoot will respond by pounding on trees or rocks. They also keep wood and other camping gear just in case the car breaks down and they are forced to spend the night outdoors.

The recorder's microphone is attached to a metal dish designed to gather sound. Andrews' recordings of what he believes to be Bigfoot calls are available on Valenti's Web site: www.sasquatchresearch.com.

Valenti, who lives on the Lummi Reservation, has organized a Sasquatch symposium at the end of the month in Bellingham. During the three-day event, professional biologists, amateur anthropologists and people who reportedly have had encounters with Bigfoot will gather to discuss their common interest.

Valenti said he is putting together a nonprofit corporation and hopes he can get funding to study Sasquatch full time.

Both he and Andrews have day jobs. Andrews works for the Snohomish County road department and Valenti owns his own computer company and works for the "Organic Press," a Skagit-based publication.

Searching for proof Traveling to the remote mountain May 13, Andrews and Valenti explained the lure of the simian-like Sasquatch — it's all in the anticipation.

"We usually have a pretty boring time," Andrews said. "When you hear something, it's like you won the Lotto."

They agreed to take a reporter and photographer to a location that Andrews said has a history of activity, provided the site was not revealed. Andrews and Valenti said they fear hunters or volumes of people could disturb or harm Bigfoot.

The two men pick the places they stake out by culling locations from sightings reported to them directly, as well as from various Sasquatch-related Web sites. Andrews said he doesn't screen the reports but looks for patterns instead.

Catching the bug Andrews has been looking for Sasquatch since he read about Bigfoot in a Boy Scout publication. Something about the possibility of the mysterious creature captured his attention.

He chuckled over the memory of himself as a teenager, naively walking up to property owners in the Rocky Mountains Front Range and inquiring if they had seen very tall, hairy men.

Andrews said he has never seen Sasquatch.

Valenti caught the Bigfoot bug in 1996 when he and an acquaintance took a wrong turn while driving near the Apalachicola National Forest near Tallahassee, Fla. He said he and another man saw what he describes as a female Sasquatch.

One look was enough. He's been hooked ever since.

Valenti and Andrews are willing to speak publicly about their search for Bigfoot, but many seekers of Sasquatch are reluctant to discuss their pursuits.

When Valenti and Andrews stopped the Subaru in Sedro-Woolley to meet a woman who had borrowed their recording equipment, she told the reporter: "No names."

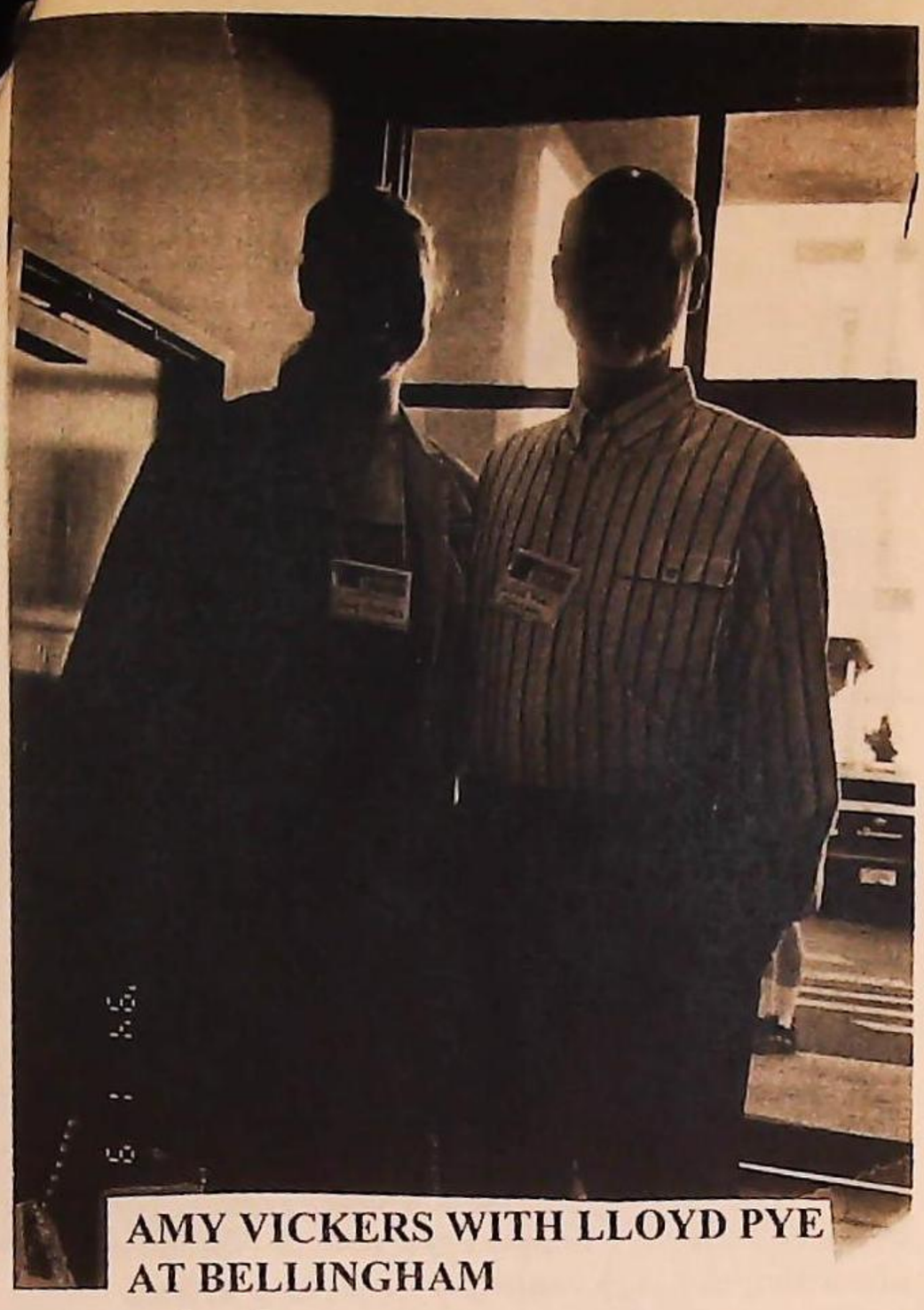
Her reticence is understandable.

Some in the Sasquatch community believe Bigfoot has psychic powers, is associated with UFOs or is capable of intradimensional travel.

Andrews and Valenti are careful to say that anything is possible, but they say they haven't experienced anything resembling a UFO, except for the time when Andrews saw sparkling lights in the night sky.

Scientific doubt: For many Americans and most of the scientific community, Sasquatch is very much a part of the paranormal, and therefore, not worth investigating.

"There aren't many scientists who are open minded about the prospect," said Jeff Meldrum, a biologist



AMY VICKERS WITH LLOYD PYE AT BELLINGHAM

specializing in the evolution of primate locomotion. "There is such a stigma unfortunately attached to it that a lot of scientists haven't stopped to ask themselves the very questions of what would it entail. They say it can't exist; therefore, it shouldn't exist."

However, there also are a few primatologists or biologists employed at universities who have considered questions such as: If Bigfoot exists, what would it need to survive? Or how might it have evolved?

Some scientists say they have concluded that there isn't enough forage in North America for a giant ape to live.

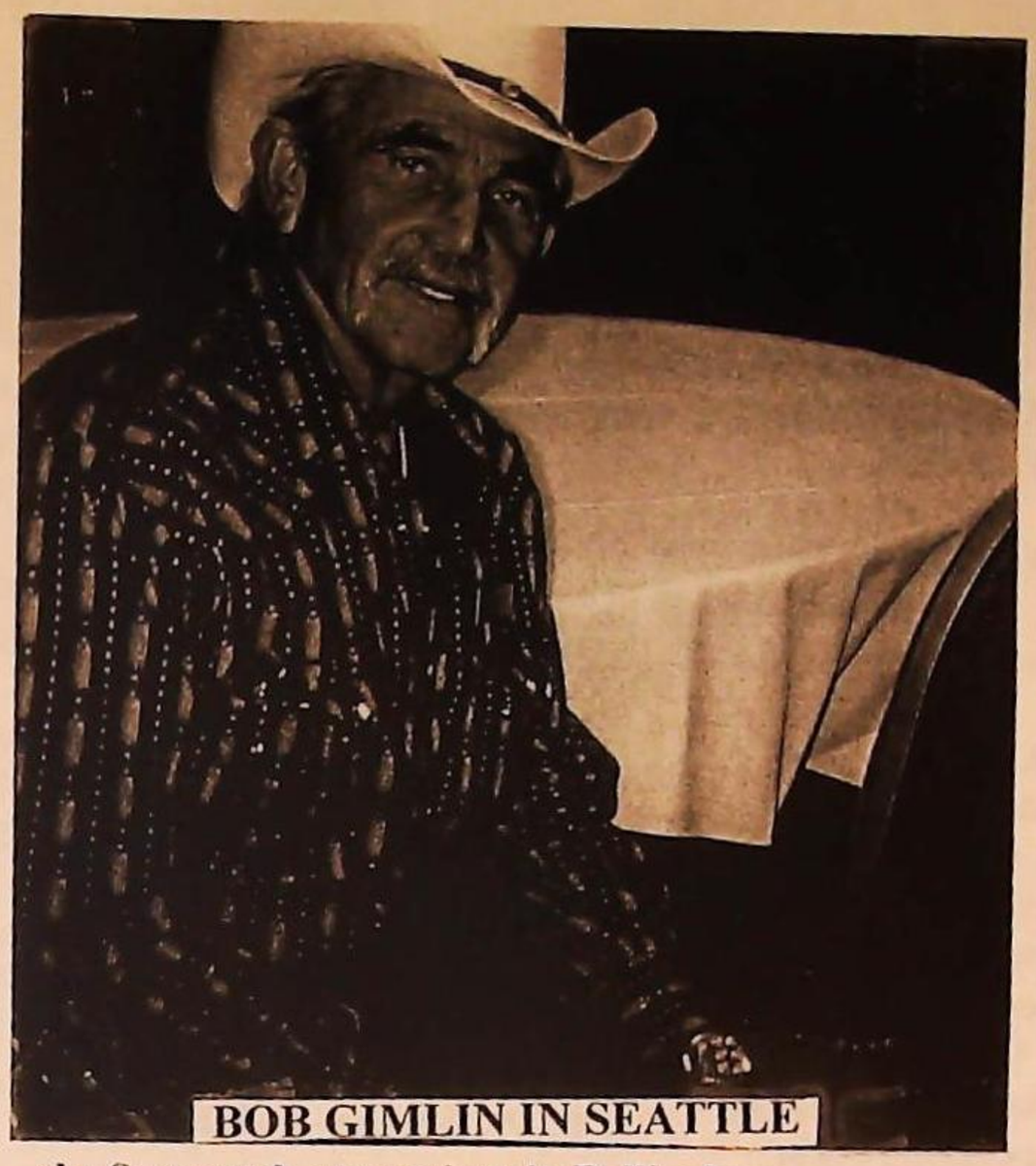
Meldrum, who teaches at Idaho State University, disagrees. He says it would be possible for a large primate to survive in North America, especially if it ate meat.

Does that mean Meldrum believes in Sasquatch?

"It's not not a matter of belief," Meldrum said. "It's 'does the evidence justify a serious consideration of the question?' "

Meldrum said he has investigated tracks, casts of tracks and collected enough anecdotal reports that he is convinced scientists should consider investigating what is causing these sightings and tracks. He fits his own investigations into a few weeks each year between other research.

Meldrum is careful to say that he hasn't ruled out the existence of Bigfoot nor he also hasn't proven that such a creature may exist. He is one of the speakers at



BOB GIMLIN IN SEATTLE

the Sasquatch symposium in Bellingham.

Seeing is believing

Laymen and scientists who question the existence of a Bigfoot-like creature ask, with all the people in the backcountry and all of our technology, why hasn't one been found yet?

Meldrum said it's possible for species to escape detection. It is estimated that just 8 percent of the fossil record of primates is known.

Additionally, scientists make new finds every day, such as the fossils of a hobbit-sized relative of Homo sapiens discovered in 2004 on an island near Bali, between Asia and Australia.

" 'The absence of evidence isn't the evidence of absence,' " Meldrum said, repeating an anthropology axiom.

Back on the mountainside, Andrews and Valenti explained they believe Bigfoot stands between 7 and 12 feet tall and weighs between 1,200 and 2,000 pounds.

Based on reports to various Sasquatch Web sites and laymen researchers such as themselves, the men believe if such a creature were to exist, it would live near fresh water anywhere from sea level to about 2,000 feet.

There's a lot of speculation about what it would eat. Andrews said he is convinced it migrates along the west side of the Cascade Mountains.

Something caught Valenti's attention.

"What's that?" Valenti asked. "Quiet."

After a few moments, he broke the silence.

"Did you hear that?" Valenti asked. "It sounded like a high-pitched scream."

Andrews said he didn't hear it.

The night grew chilly as the men continued calling and talking about Sasquatch.

TABLE DISPLAY AT BELLINGHAM

The search continues
Around midnight, a light, cold rain began to fall, and Valenti considered their likelihood of success.

"I don't think we're going to get much tonight," Valenti said.

"The wind's picking up. The best is a quiet, quiet night."

They pile the gear in the back of the Subaru and Andrews used a flashlight to check the area to ensure they have left nothing behind.

On the ride down the mountain, Valenti held a camcorder to his eye as Andrews drove. People have reported encountering Sasquatch crossing logging roads. Valenti said he wanted to be ready.

On the drive down the mountain, the men talk about their experiences, past conferences and the upcoming event.

Andrews and Valenti don't seem to mind that they didn't hear their quarry. In the mountains of northwestern Washington, quiet, overcast nights are common. And they will be out again soon, banging on trees and calling out to Bigfoot from a mountain.

For Sasquatch aficionados, the fun is in the possibility that the next trip might yield a sound, a track or even a sighting.

"If you ever hear a sound, it makes it all worth it," Andrews said.

Marta Murvosh can be reached at 360-416-2149 or by e-mail at mmurvosh@skagitvalleyherald.com.

* <outland_watkins@yahoo.com> 22 May '05
Texas Bigfoot Conference: Re: Male and Female Sasquatch Being "Contained" in Oklahoma

OK.....so let's just wait and see, if it's true or not (and if there isn't a cover up) time will tell! You know how it goes!
--- In TexasBigfootConf@yahoogroups.com, "Craig Woolheater"
<ecwool@s...> wrote: In terms of keeping everyone on this Bigfoot list up-to-date on what might be under discussion elsewhere, I pass the following along. I have no idea as to the context or reality of these reports. Yet. Right now it appears to have several items of a questionable nature contained in the "story."

Is "Jason Leigh" this person's real name? Or is that moniker a hoax? A hint here may be that a Hollywood director who died in 1979, named Leigh Jason, directed "Science Fiction Theater," a television series that began in 1955, and such movies as "Humanettes" (1930). And should we even care?
Loren Coleman Portland, Maine

* TEXT Male and Female Sasquatch Being "Contained" in Oklahoma: Hamilton, Ontario: O
the Wednesday, May 18th edition of the Internationally syndicated late evening talk show, T
X Zone Radio Show host by Rob McConnell and heard exclusively on the TalkStar Radio Network and their US and Canadian affiliates, a guest claimed that a male and female sasquatch were being "contained" in Oklahoma.

Leigh claims that the full name of the sasquatch is "Yeti Sasquatch

Bigfoot Junior."

Jason Leigh, who has been on The X Zone Radio Show claims to be a Former employee of ABC as live cameraman, had a UFO sighting that changed his life on June 11, 1995. Since then Jason has been involved with the search and establishing that extraterrestrials are presently visiting our planet and that there is a US Government conspiracy when it comes to aliens and UFOs.

Leigh, who was scheduled to come on last night's show surprised McConnell with his world exclusive announcement on The X Zone, that a male sasquatch, that measures 9.5 feet tall and answers to the name of "Otis" was tracked down and captured in Oklahoma. The female sasquatch that is also being contained, who has been named "Sarah Jane", according to Leigh could very well be a hybrid species.

The length of time that the two sasquatch have been contained for was not revealed.

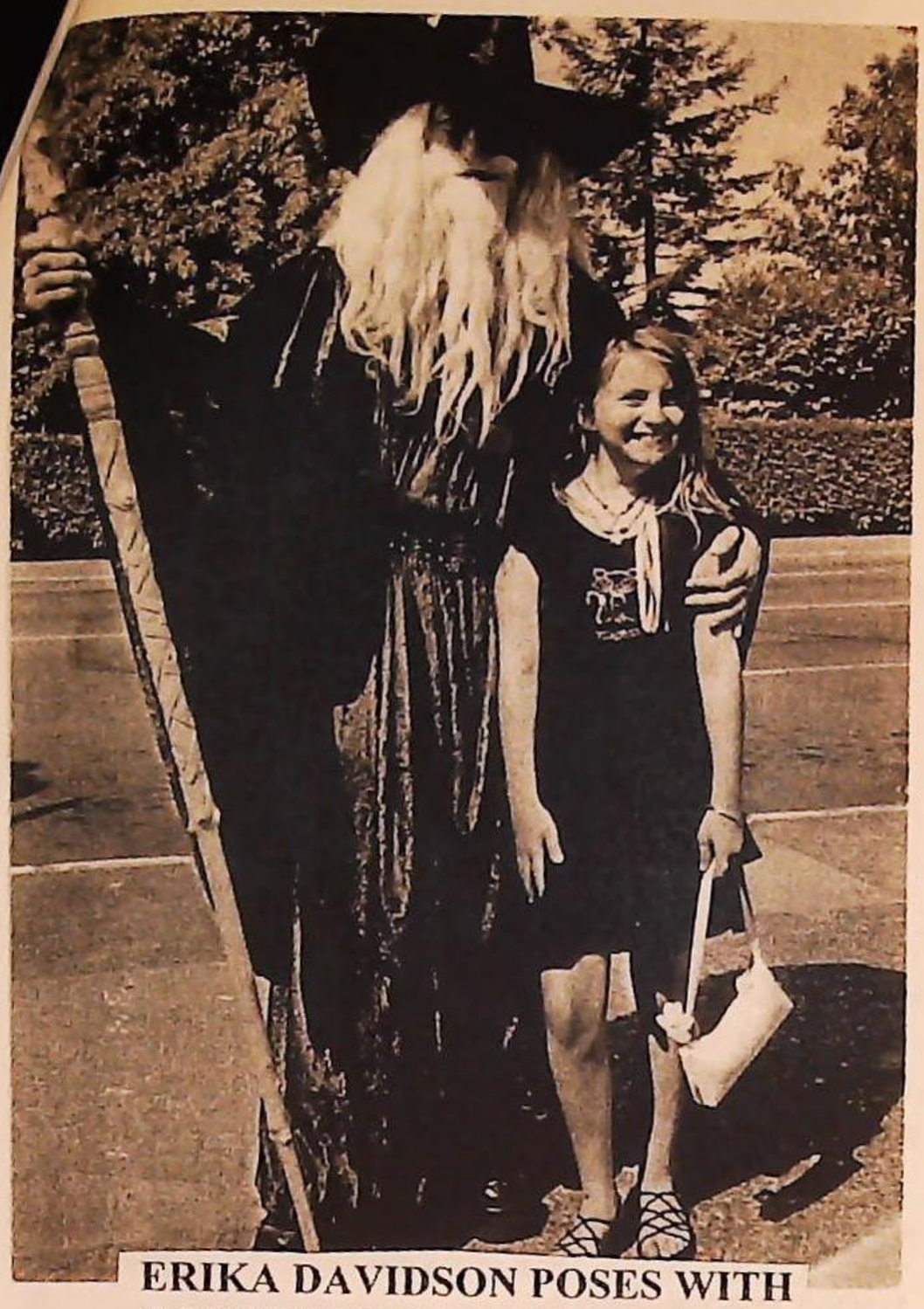
According to Leigh, a film company in Oklahoma, Ghost Shield Studios are going to be filming a docu-drama about the sasquatch and that after viewing the film which is scheduled to wrap up in the fall of 2005, there will be no way that anyone will be able to doubt the existence of sasquatch. Leigh claims to have been hired by the studio to write part of the script And possibly play the part of the Indian tracker (not because he is half Cheyenne and half Irish) but because of his long hair.

Leigh stated that the members of the scientific community and media will have their opportunity to see both sasquatch after the film has been completed and shown.

Leigh made reference to the "Sundance Indy (or Indie) Film Institute" as being the governing body behind the interview requests, and The X Zone tried to contact them for a comment, we could not find them. We then tried to contact Ghost Shield Studios and could not find a listing for them on the internet or in an Oklahoma telephone directory.

The American Indian Film Institute and Sundance Institute were contacted and they had not heard of the Sundance Indy (or Indie) Film Institute or Ghost Shield Studios.

According to members of Native American Associations who were contacted by The X Zone, containing the sasquatch against their will is a



ERIKA DAVIDSON POSES WITH COPERNICUS, VICTORIS BC

violation of their beliefs and laws since the sasquatch are considered to be sacred.

To listen to Rob McConnell's interview with Jason Leigh, visit HYPERLINK http://www.xzone-radio.com/archives.htm on the date of Wednesday, May 18th, 2005.

* Dear Ray, Here's something that's timely, in light of BFRO's recent (5/31) request for sponsorship by a wealthy individual.Best regards, Roger Knights

Let's Advertise for a Commercial Sponsor

Roger Knights (Note: This was written well before the widely publicized announcement by Biscardi requesting a sponsor for his expedition. It's a pity it wasn't also published beforehand.)

Pepsi is sponsoring a Japanese expedition to find a Yeti. That gave me the idea: A commercial sponsor for Bigfoot research! Of course! That's how Lindbergh financed his trip. All some Bigfoot organization would have to do is place a cheap classified ad in a Public Relations trade journal offering PR firms an info-pack to present to their clients. Even an unsuccessful expedition would garner lots of publicity and good will. Lots of firms sponsor balloon expeditions, racing yachts, bicyclists, etc.

Seeking sponsors hasn't been talked about much in the books & Newsletters I've read. It seems we've mostly been hoping for another sugar daddy like Tom Slick or the Boston scientific foundation that funded Peter Byrne. Those aren't commercial sponsors. At the other extreme are small sporting goods companies who might cough up a couple of thousand worth of equipment for a single team, but who wouldn't put in the large amount of cash that the field needs.

That's why the story about Pepsi getting involved hit me so hard. $50,000 or $100,000 per year would be nothing to a company that size. (Maybe we could get Coke & Pepsi to sponsor competing research teams?!) They'd get a million bucks worth of goodwill for a large consumer goods firm (like Pepsi!) if their sponsorship actually helped turn up proof. Or even just good evidence, like a good video of Bigfoot, whose rights they'd own.

The way to find out who might be interested would be to run the idea up the flagpole in a classified ad in the national public relations' industry's trade journal:

Bulldog Reporter http://www.infocomgroup.com/. webmgr@infocomgroup.com INFOCOM GROUP 5900 Hollis Street, Suite R2, Emeryville, CA 94608-2008Phone (510) 596-9300. Fax (510) 596-9331

It would aid credibility if the BF people running the ad were long established, like the Western Bigfoot Society, or were generally regarded as the leader in their field, like BFRO (and had testimonials to that effect they could cite).

As for a quick rundown of reasons that could be listed in an info-pack as to why this isn't just a wild-goose chase, see my very short (20-line) paper, "20 Reasons Why Bigfoot Might Be Real."

Whoever makes the pitch should argue for long-term funding--e.g., a commitment of say $100,000 per year for ten years. That would get the sponsor really identified with the project, over time, in the public mind. (Of course, the sponsor could drop out if it felt that the identification wasn't doing any good or was actually hurting it.) And that would give better odds of success—success is going to come to the persistent. A spectacular one-shot expedition, such as is being backed in India by Pepsi, is not likely to pay off.

* Roger Knights 20 Reasons Bigfoot is Real

Regarding "20 Reasons Bigfoot is Probably Real": The 20 points below provide a basis for Comebacks to scoftical dismissals that are commonly thrown in believers' faces. (I've appended eight examples of such Comebacks.) Since it would be useful to have a business card containing these points to hand out to such pests, I've created a terser version that is brief enough to be printed onto both sides of such a card on your home computer. I.e., printed onto standard (10-card) card stock. Such "ammo" can knock aggressive scoffers off their high horse and get them to consider that "there might be something to it." They can also be used be investigators who want to lessen the incredulity of persons whose cooperation they want to enlist, such as reporters, officials, landowners, and relatives of witnesses. I will e-mail, to anyone who requests it, a Word file from which sheets containing 10 such cards can be printed. (It consists of two Word "tables," each with 10 card images, front and back.)

Ideally such cards would contain the URL of a website that is formatted to provide in-depth support for each of the 20 points. If any site takes such steps, I will add a line to the card including its URL. Hopefully, this would be the in-development Bigfoot Online Museum, or BOM.

20 Reasons Bigfoot
Is Probably REAL
Roger Knights

01. Some experts endorse Bigfoot's possibility or reality: Goodall: "I'm sure they exist" (a statement she hasn't recanted), Schaller, Swindler, etc.
02. There's no convincing imitation of Patterson's Bigfoot (aka "Queen Kong"); e.g., imitations lack an end-step 90° knee-bend and a near-vertical sole while the toes leave the ground.
03. Queen Kong's "Intermembral Index"—i.e., its arm-length to leg-length ratio—is .85, which isn't human (.70). (Its elbow bends mid-arm, so arm-extenders weren't used.) Her shoulders are inhumanly wide.
04. Non-human footprint features are found, e.g., greater relative width, and push-up mounds indicative of a mid-tarsal break.
05. Many prints are long-stride, remote, or (unlike a mold) vary or exhibit sweat pores.
06. Proton emission (PIXE) profiles (Fe/Zn) of 33 Chinese Wildman hairs match one another, but don't match any known animals' profile.
07. 25 hair analyses = "unknown animal" or "... primate."
08. Expert (Brian Sykes') DNA analysis of a Yeti-hair root: "unknown animal."
09. Dogs often fear Bigfoot scent, when brought to a site.
10. Variance of footprint lengths to widths = bell-shaped curve, indicative of a natural pattern.
11. Piles of human-shaped but gigantic feces have been found.
12. Unnaturally twisted trees & branches; & sounds of BF's tree-limb-snapping.
13. Some audiotapes of Bigfoot calls have withstood expert analysis. (So far.)
14. Sightings go back 200 years--Native Americans' further.
15. 30+ policemen have reported seeing a Bigfoot.
16. 1500+ "quality" (= investigator-OK'd) post-50's sightings.
17. 1000's of borderline encounters reported: unusual sounds, stenches, rocks thrown, "beds" found, strange "kills," etc.
18. Independent witnesses in the same locale describe the same individual-BF (height, color, hair-type, sex, etc.).
19. Certain sighting characteristics make a hoax unlikely: Height (often 8 feet), Girth, Stride, Weight, & Stench.
20. Hoaxers like to "crow"; but Bigfoot hoax-claims have been rare, and often dubious. Re-enactments of claimed hoaxes are nearly non-existent.

Eight Comebacks
Roger Knights

1. *"Only loonies believe in that stuff."*
—Jane Goodall is a believer, as are some other primate experts.
2. *"Patterson's Bigfoot (PBF) could easily be imitated."*
—The PBF pivots its sole upright while its toes leave the ground, and later raises its lower leg to the horizontal, either of which badly throws off a human's gait, posture, and speed. (Try it.) Bob Heironimus's recreation-walks lack these two features.
3. *"It's just hoaxers in ape suits."*
—8-foot ape suits aren't available off-the-rack; walking convincingly in them would be impossible. (75% of witnesses report heights of at least 8 feet—see *Meet the Sasquatch,* p. 127.)
4. *"Footprints can be easily faked."*
—Show me. No track hoaxers, including Wallace, and no "faking's-easy" scoftics, have demonstrated that they have made or can make *tracks* that can fool experts. And it would be unlikely for a footprint hoaxer to:
   - Plant fake footprints in remote areas;
   - Individualize prints with variations uncharacteristic of a mold.
   - Fake a Bigfoot encounter or near-encounter to trigger a print-search.
5. *"Ray Wallace did it all."*
—Wallace couldn't have been responsible for well over 1000 modern sightings, nor for all the sightings before 1958. And while alive Wallace strenuously denied he'd hoaxed the 1958 tracks—his family just assumed he must have, and told the press he had "confessed," to make a better story.
6. *"They're just 'Elvis Sightings'"* [i.e., made by loonies + believers]
—30+ policemen, and many solid citizens, have reported sightings.
7. *"There's no hard evidence."*
—25 unmatchable hair samples have been found. It's unlikely hoaxers manufactured them all, and arranged for them to fall into many different hands, often after a preliminary Bigfoot encounter.
8. *"Artificial hairs can appear real even to experts."*
—PIXE analysis of the chemical makeup of Yeren hairs has ruled out artificiality. And artificial hairs lack the Yeti-hair's root bulb and DNA.

* Dr. Wayne Suttles has passed away. Many of us know him from his
association
with Grover Krantz and Roderick Sprague, due to his more than passing interest in Sasquatch traditions, folklore, and analysis. His works on the subject included:"On the Cultural Track of the Sasquatch," Northwest Anthropological Research Notes 6, no. 1: 65-90, 1972, and "Sasquatch: The Testimony of Tradition," in Marjorie M. Halpin, ed.,

Manlike Monsters on Trial: Early Records and Modern Evidence, Vancouver and London: University of British Columbia Press, 1980.

His high interest in hominology will be missed.

Loren ColemanPortland, Maine
http://www.lorencoleman.com

* Kimba D'Michi, 7 Jun 05
kimbasmeow@yahoo.com

Bigfoot legend lives large in Northwest lore, locales ,Sunday, June 05, 2005 JOHN TERRY

One of the myriad Web sites devoted to he/she/it/them puts it succinctly: Born: c. 1811 Birthplace: United States and Canada Best Known As: Big, elusive humanoid beast of North America. The year 1811 was long before the beast, mythical or otherwise, became known as Sasquatch or Bigfoot. But it is the first formal record of such a critter.

The fellow who set it down was neither slouch nor faker in the exploration department. David Thompson is famous for tracking the Columbia River from its headwaters to the sea and establishing trading posts for the North West Co. on the Kootenai, Pend Oreille and Spokane rivers, several years before John Jacob Astor's crew set up shop at Astoria.

On Jan. 7, 1811, Thompson and party were slogging west across what we now know as the Canadian Rockies when they saw something worthy of a detailed journal note, which Thompson later expanded in "Narrative of His Explorations in Western America."

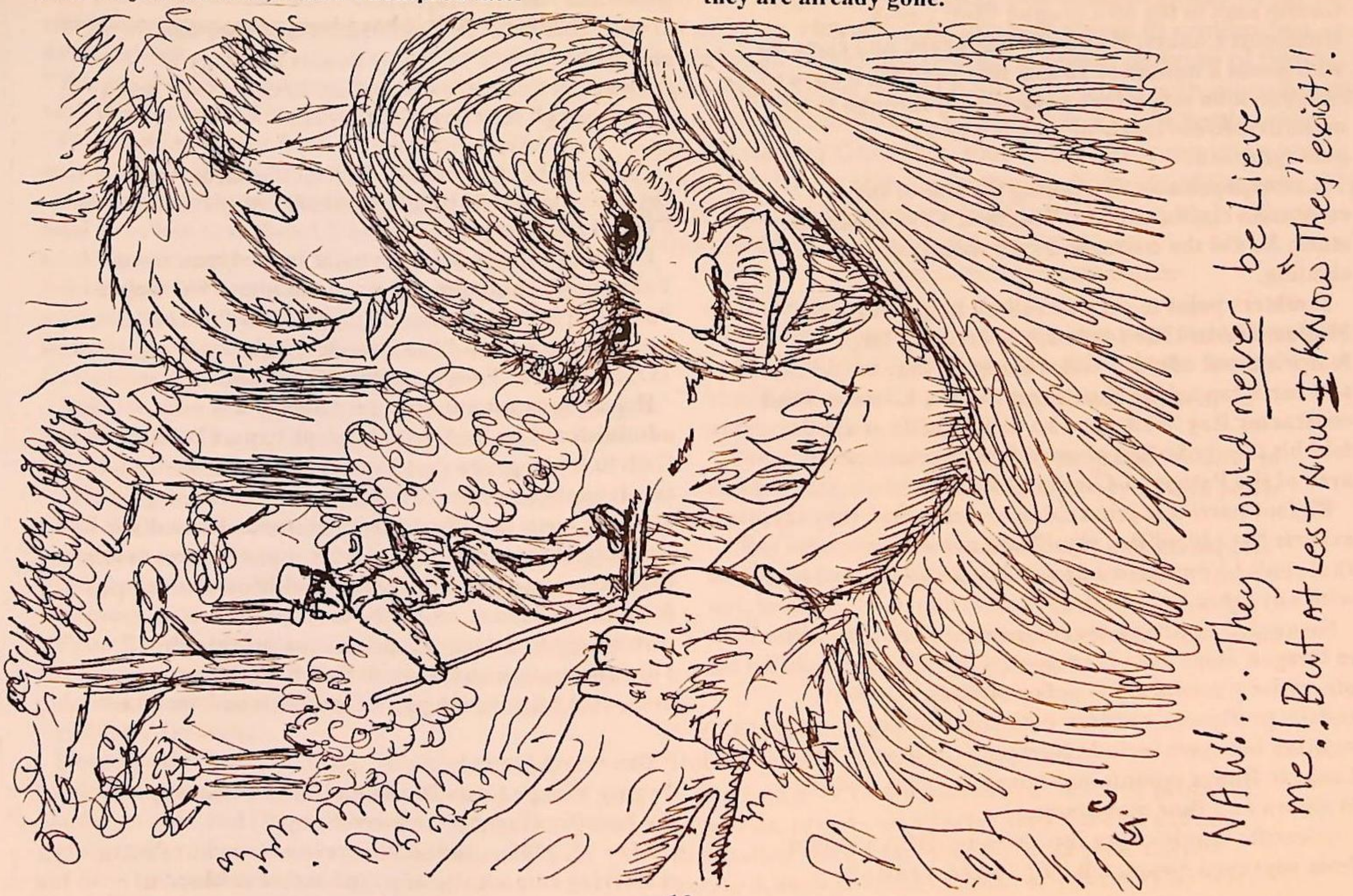
"I saw the track of a large Animal -- has 4 large toes about 3 or 4 In long & a small nail at the end of each. The Bal of his foot sank abt 3 In deeper than his Toes -- the hinder part of his foot did not mark well. The whole is about 14 In long by 8 In wide & very much resembles a large Bear's Track. It was in the Rivulet in about 6 In snow."

In his "Narrative" he added: "We were in no humour to follow him; the Men and Indians would have it to be a young mammouth and I held it to be the track of a large old grizzly; yet the shortness of the nails, the ball of the foot, and its great size was not that of a Bear, otherwise that of a very large old Bear, his claws worn away, the Indians would not allow."

In 1840, the Rev. Elkanah Walker wrote that members of the Spokane Tribe spoke of hairy giants that inhabited remote parts of their territory.

Indeed, Native American tradition across America is replete with creatures generally referred to by some native term for "Big Man." In his 1980 book "In the Spirit of Crazy Horse," author Peter Mathiessen quotes Joe Flying By, a Hunkpapa Lakota:

"I think the Big Man is a kind of husband of Unk-ksa, the earth, who is wise in the way of anything with its own natural wisdom. . . . Some of the people who saw him did not respect what they were seeing, and they are already gone."



In the Chinook language, the term "Skookum" connotes a large, powerful entity who bestows ill fortune and makes bumpy noises in the night.

In 1893, no less a no-nonsense personality than Theodore Roosevelt wrote of his Western adventures and passed on an account of such creatures he attributed to "a beaten old mountain hunter named Bauman."

In his 1978 "The Apes Among Us," author and Sasquatchologist John Willison Green recounts Albert Ostman's 1924 claim that, while prospecting in the British Columbia wilderness, he was kidnapped and held for six days by the creatures:

"They look like a family, old man, old lady and two young ones, a boy and a girl. The boy and the girl seem to be scared of me. The old lady did not seem too pleased about what the old man dragged home. But the old man was waving his arms and telling them all what he had in mind."

Also in 1924, miner Fred Beck reported that a cabin he occupied with others in the wilds above Kelso, Wash., was assaulted by giant creatures that pounded on the structure, threw rocks and at one point thrust a hairy, outsized, menacing arm through the wall.

About this time the term "Sasquatch," derived from Northwest native dialects, came into vogue in reference to the creatures.

In 1967 came a defining event in Sasquatch history. Sasquatch hunters Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin took to the hills around Bluff Creek, Humboldt County, Northern California, and came up with about a minute of 16 mm film showing a form of Sasquatchian magnitude galumphing through some underbrush, obviously of no mind to be photographed.

A newspaper account, noting the size of the creature's tracks, called it "Bigfoot." The nickname stuck. So did the controversy surrounding the sighting.

Doubters point to such as retired logger Rant Mullen who in 1982 confessed to creating large footprints out of alder and whomping fake tracks into soft earth in various Northwest locales. Likewise road contractor Ray Wallace, who died in 2002 at age 84, told his family he had planted Sasquatch tracks in the area of the Patterson-Gimlin film.

Bigfoot partisans grant fakes abound. But, they say, experts have identified significant animalian tracks that can't be duplicated in wood and can't be equated with any other known biped.

Sasquatch sightings are frequent -- more than 500 in Oregon alone over the years. Many are by people otherwise trustworthy -- police officers, foresters, college professors, outdoor enthusiasts. Recent sighting hot spots include Northern California, the Cascade Range mountains above Estacada, and the Wallowa and Blue mountains.

Scientific inquiries are inconclusive. DNA samples from supposed Sasquatch hair and scat can't be verified. No skeletons or other remains have been found.

And although he or she (the Patterson-Gimlin film shows clear signs of femininity) is regularly the subject of news stories and TV documentaries -- trailing only Liz Taylor, Elvis and UFOs in tabloid coverage -- Sasquatch is shyly resolute in refusing to show face or provide other solid evidence of existence.

After 200 years, the reclusive, smelly (extreme body order is an often-reported characteristic) beasts seem content to remain an enigma wrapped in mystery cloaked in fur.

John Terry, terryjohnf@cs.com

* Many Scientists Admit to Misconduct By Rick Weiss, Washington Post Staff Writer Thu Jun 9, '05

Few scientists fabricate results from scratch or flatly plagiarize the work of others, but a surprising number engage in troubling degrees of fact-bending or deceit, according to the first large-scale survey of scientific misbehavior.

More than 5 percent of scientists answering a confidential questionnaire admitted to having tossed out data because the information contradicted their previous research or said they had circumvented some human research protections.

Ten percent admitted they had inappropriately included their names or those of others as authors on published research reports.

And more than 15 percent admitted they had changed a study's design or results to satisfy a sponsor, or ignored observations because they had a "gut feeling" they were inaccurate.

* Yakima Man Claims He's the Real Bigfoot on 'Lie Detector' Airing TOMORROW NIGHT May 17th 8:00 PM ET/PT USA Television

Bob Heironimus, a 64-year-old retired man from Yakima, Washington, claims the famous 1967 Roger Patterson film of the legendary "Bigfoot" was all a hoax, on PAX TV's "Lie Detector," airing TOMORROW Tuesday, May 17, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Heironimus submits to a lie detector test administered by leading polygraph expert Dr. Ed Gelb to try to prove that he was the infamous creature shot on film in Bluff Creek, California, wearing just a modified gorilla costume. Hosted by Rolonda Watts, "Lie Detector" is a provocative series that examines the truth behind real-life stories ripped from the headlines, using the most powerful instrument to detect deception - the polygraph. For information on where to find PAX TV in your area, visit http://www.pax.tv and click on "Stations"

* Discover Channel

Pygmy Village Casts Doubt on 'Hobbit' Human

By Jennifer Viegas, Discovery News

May 12, 2005— Indonesian researchers have found a thriving community of pygmies on the island of Flores, just over a half mile away from where

Scientists had excavated a "hobbit" skeleton attributed to a new human species, according to a recent report in Indonesia's *Kompas* newspaper.

Teuku Jacob, professor of palaeoanthropology at Gadjah Mada University, led the research team. Since the discovery of *Homo floresiensis* — nicknamed the "hobbit" human — Jacob has expressed doubts that the skeleton represents an extinct hominid species.

He and Maciej Henneberg, a University of Adelaide anthropologist, believe that the 18,000-year-old bones belong to a modern human suffering from microcephaly, a condition that leads to an abnormally small head.

Liang Bua Cave on Flores

Homo Floresiensis*, Left, and *Homo Sapiens

If the newly found community of 77 pygmy families in Rampapasa village can be directly linked to the tiny ancient remains, Jacob and Henneberg could strengthen their argument that *Homo floresiensis* never existed.

"The presence of the pygmy people (at Flores) is both very interesting and surprising," Jacob told *Kompas*. "For years, scientists from all over the world could only see their traces."

According to Jacob, the Rampapasa adult males tend to be less than 4-foot 7-inches in height, while adult females only stand about 4-foot 4-inches. The hobbit skeleton would have belonged to an individual who stood about 3-foot 5-inches, said Richard Roberts, professor and senior research fellow at the University of Wollongong in Australia.

Roberts, who was a part of the team that discovered and identified *Homo floresiensis*, was not at all surprised by the finding of the pygmy village.

"No pygmy peoples ever discovered have been as small as the hobbits, so the ones 'discovered' by this expedition are yet another example of a regular-sized pygmy people from a tropical region," Roberts told Discovery News.

Peter Brown, his colleague, agreed. Brown, who led the research team that found the hobbit skeleton, is a palaeoanthropologist at New England University in Armidale, Australia.

Brown told Discovery News, "Pockets of small-bodied people used to be found in various parts of Southeast Asia and [Papua New Guinea], but they are simply modern humans of small body size. They do not have the anatomical and physiological characteristics of *Homo floresiensis*."

Both Brown and Roberts explained that, in addition to its short stature, the hobbit hominid had a brain size of 400 cc, or two times smaller than that of an average modern human.

They also said the hobbit had long arms relative to its body size, along with unique jaw, teeth and pelvis features.

"But are any of these scientifically critical aspects discussed by Jacob?" Roberts asked. "No, of course not, because the pygmies they 'discovered' are just diminutive modern humans and differ from you and me only by virtue of being short."

* CORANTE April 29, 2005
Hobbits Alive? Posted by Carl Zimmer

The feud over *Homo floresiensis*, the little people of Indonesia, centers on whether they were an extinct diminutive species that evolved from some ancient hominid, such as *Homo erectus*, or whether they were

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This is a surprising story entwining elements of fiction and reality. The author is led to a prehistoric cave site with priceless artifacts, gold and diamonds quite accidentally when a family of Bigfoot/Sasquatch, yes S-A-S-Q-U-A-T-C-H befriend him. His compassion and desire to protect "his friends" from being discovered is only a glimpse of this unusual encounter. Read how he is faced with a challenge of the century to overcome adversity in a court battle with a powerful Mining Company that threatens everything he's worked for. The setting is in the backwoods of Canada. The author is propelled from a frontiersman to a high office in corporate control in the USA and Canada.

just pygmy humans, perhaps suffering from some disease. The leading skeptic, paleoanthropologist Teuku Jacob, has claimed that there are pygmies living not far from where the fossils were found, on the island of Flores. I came across a short item at Japan Today about a scientific expedition to study the pygmies, which was based on an article in Kompas, an Indonesian publication. The original article is here, and my intrepid brother Ben, expert on Indonesian anthropology (cultural, not paleo-), did an on-the-fly translation for me, which I'll run below. The team got back from Flores on April 25. While there, they went to a village called Rampasasa, made up of 77 families. About 80% of the people were pygmies. They measured 10 people who were a bit taller, with a height of 155 cm and 2 measuring 160 cm. *Homo floresiensis* was 130 cm. The researchers claim that these tall villagers got some extra height from having married non-pygmies from surrounding villages.

I imagine that we'll be hearing something more official about the grandly-named Rampasasa Pygmy Somatology Expedition in a couple months. I wonder if they'll have something more than height measurements to offer--just because living pygmies are close to *H. floresiensis* doesn't seem terribly compelling, since it's my impression that height changes can evolve relatively quickly in humans. (I can't find a paper to back up this recollection at the moment, I confess.)

Update at 3:50 PM: Apologies for the various typos, dead links, and missing facts in the first version of this post. I blame it on my Mac upgrade to Tiger today.

So here's the article...

The "Pygmy" Community of Flores

The existence of a community of pygmy people in the Manggarai Regency of Flores, East Nusatenggara, is quite interesting but also quite mysterious. In the context of the archaeological discovery of the prehistoric human skeleton from Liang Bua in Flores -- which has been published widely as belonging to the species named Homo floresiensis -- the existence of the pygmy community in the village of Rampasasa, Waemulu region, Waeriri subdistrict, could possibly shatter all previous arguments.

"The existence of the pygmy community there is quite interesting and also quite surprising. For many years, experts from various corners of the world have only had the chance to see their footprints, but it turns out we can now find them living in a society. This means that for hundreds or maybe even thousands of years, this pygmy community has remained settled in that place without ever moving around," said Prof Teuku Jacob, emeritus professor at Gadjah Mada University.

Jacob, who also leads the Bio- and Paleo-Anthropology Laboratory at Gadjah Mada, further explained, "Pygmy people have indeed been reported as existing in the Andaman Islands and New Guinea, but only a few remain and it is difficult to find them because they live in dispersed conditions. Now we can find them living together in one village."

Since the 1920s, the East Nusatenggara region has been an object of interest for anthropologists, especially those from Holland, after seeing evidence that the residents there have rather short body height. The results of the 1929 Biljmer study indicate that more than 50 percent of the residents of the region have body height of about 155 to 163 cm. Besides that, in Flores there have long circulated folk tales about short people with darkly colored skin (Negritos) who live in the hills, hiding in caves.

Dr. Theodore Verhoeven, pastor at the Ledalero Maumere Seminary, conjectured in 1958 that these short people were a Proto-Negrito community. This term refers to the Schebesta study in the Andamans, remote areas of Borneo (Kalimantan), and also the southern Philippines.

According to Teuku Jacob, if the height of the Negritos is roughly between 155 and 163 cm, they would be called pygmoid. But if the Rampasasa people are true pygmies their height would have to be less than 145 cm for adult males and 135 cm for adult females. The maximum weight would be 40 kg for males and 30 kg for females.

Pygmies are indeed different from dwarfs. This is because the term dwarf indicates a small body with proportions that are out of order. Pygmies, meanwhile, have small bodies that are proportional.

Since last year, the team working under the leadership of Prof. RP Soejono and Dr. MJ Morwood conducting an excavation in Liang Bua, Flores, has found human skeletons with an approximate height of 130 cm and with brains about a third of the size of modern humans. This discovery was later claimed to be a new species of humans called Homo floresiensis (Flores Man).

Worwood, an expert in cave paintings from Australia, in fact called the results of the discovery "hobbits" in a popular fashion, a group of pygmy people like those in the film Lord of the Rings. The picture of miniature Flores Man then appeared as a major report in the April 2005 edition of National Geographic.

The above claim about the discovery of a new species was rejected by a number of experts. Etty Indriati, a PhD from Gadjah Mada, called it a

baseless tale. How could there be a new species from the discovery of just one skeleton which in fact was misidentified? They said it was a female while from the dental structure it was clear that it was a male, and also a modern one.

"What is more unreasonable, it is not possible that a brain that has already developed as Homo sapiens could then become small and develop into a new species, left behind as prehistoric remains," she explained.

Indeed, for mammals trapped in remote islands for hundreds of years -- and with insufficient food to eat -- bodies will become smaller as an adaptation to the environment. "But, for humans, their menu is not just one type of food. Despite being isolated, they will try to find other types of food, so their bodies do not become small," she added.

Teuku Jacob explained, "The pygmy people of Flores are not a prehistoric race. Our team has successfully found a community of pygmies living in the modern world." What is even more ironic, the community of pygmies mentioned by Jacob is only about 1 kilometer from Liang Bua, the dwelling place of the species given the name Homo floresiensis by Worwood.

Koeshardjono, an expert in biology who was the first to announce the existence of a pygmy community in Flores, stated, "This expedition was named the Rampasasa Pygmy Somatology Expedition. This is because the pygmy community of about 77 families resides entirely in the village of Rampasasa, Waemulu region, Waeriri subdistrict, Manggarai regency, south Flores."

The results of the team of physical anthropologists led by Teuku Jacob recorded that 80 percent of the residents of Rampasasa are classified as pygmy. The provisional findings indicate that there are 10 people with a height of 155 cm and two people with a height of 160 cm. It turns out that their body size is relatively tall because of marriage with residents outside of the village. The team of researchers from Gadjah Mada has been in Rampasasa since April 18 and returns to Yogya Sunday night (April 25).

Category: Hobbits (Homo floresiensis)

COMMENTS

Tim Burns on April 29, 2005 07:17 PM writes...

Absolutely amazing. This is either a great hoax or a truly amazing find. So what if they really are pygmies, does that really mean the Homo Florisis is not a unique species? How does the social context play into how we define "species"? Scientists, please forgive my layman language, but if they really are pygmies, then isn't there something broader in the problem of classifying "who" they are in terms of a genetic lineage?

Permalink to Comment

spiznet on April 30, 2005 10:24 AM writes...

Finally a story that makes sense. A slightly pathological modern from this or other similar village 13kya. Thanks, Teuku J!!

Permalink to Comment

ChL on April 30, 2005 12:38 PM writes...

All this mentioning of negritos in the Philippines and the Andamanes just serves to muddy the waters as far as I can tell. They have been well studied, and if they had any similarity with Flores man, that would have been noticed already, wouldn't it?

Permalink to Comment

B hudson on May 2, 2005 11:10 AM writes...

The original article in Nature describes H.floresiensis as being 1m tall, not 1.3m. Regardless of the height, a more recent article by the excavation team found morphological differences between the Hobbit fossil brain cavity and that of various other hominids (and a chimp). So this pygmy village, if true, doesn't kill the H.foresiensis claim, though it does weaken it.

Permalink to Comment

Thomas N. Headland on May 2, 2005 05:37 PM writes...

Dear Mr. Zimmer: I just read your interesting posting of April 29 titled "Hobbits Alive?" I'm not sure what you mean by the term "pygmies," but I have been studying Asian Negrito foragers for most of the last 43 years. (The term "Negrito" is less problematic than "pygmy," but perhaps not by much.) I have measured hundreds of adults in the Agta Negrito population in the Philippines, and male adults average 154.4 cm (weight 46.2 kg) and females 143.8 cm (weight 39.3 kg). If you "can't find a paper to back up [your] recollection at the moment" of a 'pygmy' population's height changes at different times, see John Early's and my 1998 book, p.118. You can compare Agta heights with those of African Pygmies and other 'primitive' and Asian Negrito populations at Table 4 of my 1989 article in the AMER J OF HUMAN BIOLOGY vol 1 p.67. (Ituri Pygmy male heights reportedly average 144 cm and CAR Pygmy males 153.) Homo floresiensis is a fascinating report. So far, I remain skeptical. Thomas N. Headland (www.sil.org/~headlandt/)

Permalink to Comment

Jim on May 2, 2005 07:17 PM writes...

Great article.

The "Homo Floresiensis" was actually only 100cm tall, whereas most modern pygmies are 150cm or above. It's obvious that Floresiensis was a different more archaic form of human. Infact, they can hardly be considered human at all. There were many different types of human-like beings in the prehistoric Indonesian past. Meganthropus and many large Erectine specimimens displayed a tendency towards giantism.They cannot be considered "modern humans" either, because their physical features are so outside the norm for modern humans. Likewise, Floresiensis was outside the norm of modern humans. My conclusion is-They were not modern humans.

Permalink to Comment

Lee R. Berger on May 4, 2005 08:10 AM writes...

While the discussion of pygmies on flores is of great anthropological interest, it is critical to remember that Homo floresienses is based on not just a single skeleton but several remains dug up at the locality. It is also important to remember that H. floresienses has an extraordinarily small,
but non-pathological brain - in fact it is very close to the smallest hominin brain ever discovered - and this includes australopithecines. Thus the species is not just a pygmy sized human - with a human sized brain perched on a small body as the "newly discovered" pygmies on Flores are, but a species showing very different relative cranial capacity (and morphology) from any known early or late hominin species. It is also important to note the contradictions in the arguments of the disputing scientists. Take for example the comment by Etty Indriati concerning human evolutionary adapative capacities "But, for humans, their menu is not just one type of food. Despite being isolated, they will try to find other types of food, so their bodies do not become small," Clearly not only does H. floresienses violate this rather ill founded comment but the very near pygmy-sized people on flores today violate this argument. My own work has shown that pre-humans can adapt in the oppossite direction - towards giantism - as readily as they adapt to smaller sizes under certain ecological conditions. At present - on morphological grounds - H. floresienses stands.

Permalink to Comment

Ted Haeger on May 6, 2005 04:03 PM writes...

Carl: Great materials on H. floresensis! However, why keep using the name "Hobbits?" It really cheapens the significance of this find, and the name could lead astray less scientifically inclined minds. I realize that the discovering team used the term first, but isn't it just a bit too silly and whimsical?
Thanks, Ted

Permalink to Comment

TRACKBACKS

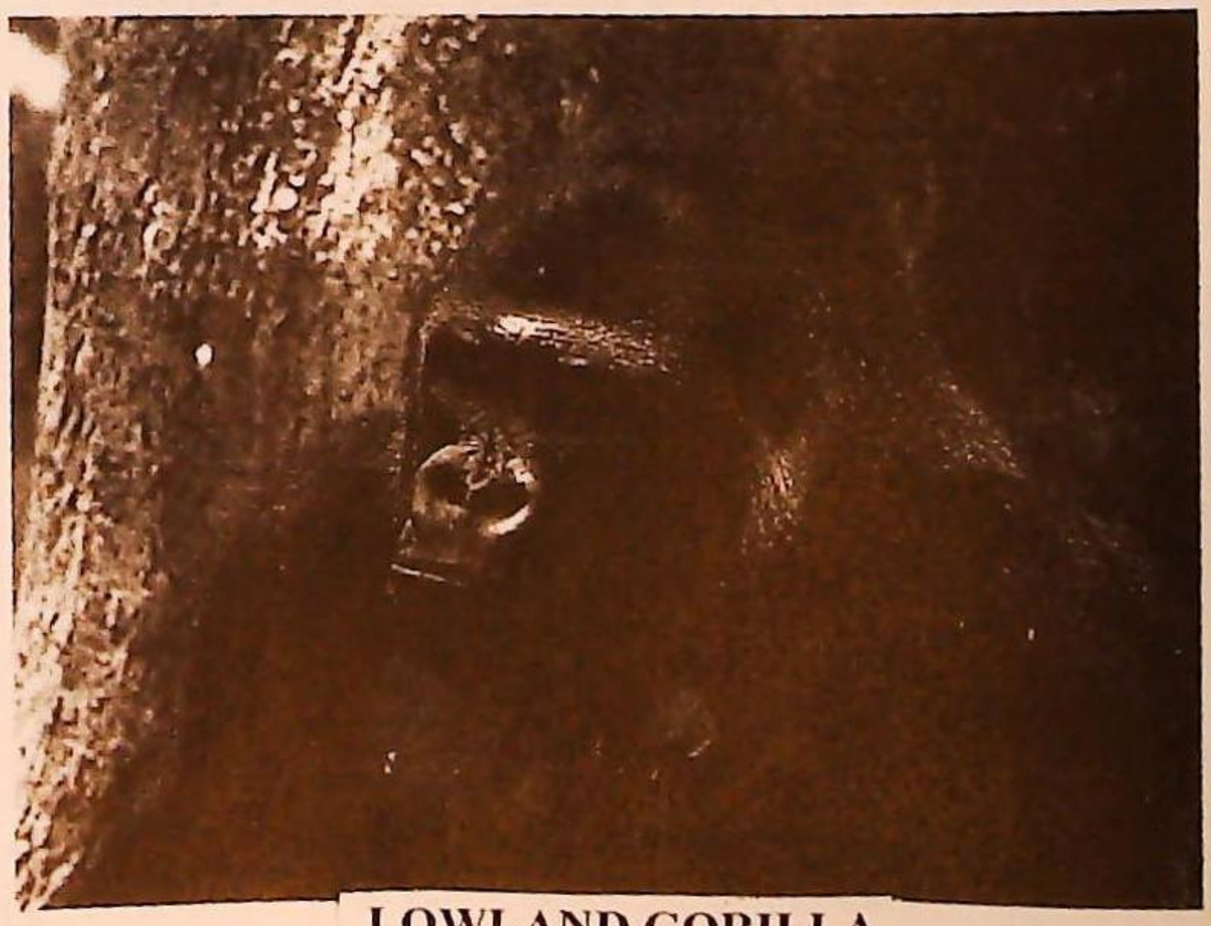
TrackBack URL: http://www.corante.com/cgi-bin/mt/mt-pcorso.cgi/11011

Hobbit hhhmm.... from Gene Expression Carl Zimmer passes on a report of a community of Pygmy Negritos a mile from the site where the Flores Hobbit was excavated. 13,000 years is a long time to maintain local continuity, but who knows? A few weeks ago... [Read More]

Tracked on April 30, 2005 12:15 AM

Who are pygmie? from Shadow Hobbits Alive?: Corante > The Loom > The leading skeptic, paleoanthropologist Teuku Jacob, has claimed that there are pygmies living not far from where the fossils were found, on the island of Flores. I came across a short item at Japan Today ... [Read More]

Tracked on April 30, 2005 12:41 AM



LOWLAND GORILLA